ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Aussie outlaw icon
Was Ned Kelly a bad lad or a flawed revolutionary?

THE THRILLING TRUTH

SPIES THAT WON WWII

Uncover the codebreakers, saboteurs and secret agents that beat the Nazis

RIFFS, DRUGS & REVOLUTION

Faced with civil rights and Vietnam, rock got political



THE CHURCH AT WAR

How Martin Luther tore Europe asunder



Pocahontas

Love, loss and imperialism, the real story was no Disney film



THE MACHO CULT OF THE OLYMPICS

Going for gold and glory in the name of the Greek gods



HISTORY VS THE ALT-RIGHT

Deborah Lipstadt on fighting Holocaust denial & fake news



BATTLE OF THE GOLDEN SPURS

The Age of Chivalry met its match in peasants with pikes

PLUS Wedding Dresses **Mussolini's rise** **Battle of the Atlantic** George Gey **Tibet before Mao**

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Explore the truth behind the life of the Powhatan princess Pocahontas

Welcome

Britain's victory in World War II is something of an article of faith – the work of gleaming Spitfires over the rolling English Channel and daring Commando raids taking place in the dark. The real secret weapon, though, was intelligence.

To oversimplify things, the USA had raw materials and the USSR had men, but Great Britain had a web of codebreakers, spies, saboteurs and secret agents that allowed our mossy island to punch above its weight and bloody the nose of Nazi Germany when Hitler was at the height of his terrible powers. It's an honour for us to pay tribute to these unsung heroes who fought a war in the shadows, and discover some of incredible men who may have inspired James Bond, as well as the spymaster who would later invent him: Ian Fleming.

Bringing to the surface some of history's untold stories has always been our goal and you'll find many more across this issue. History is made up of a billion glittering diamonds with a million facets. The more of them we see, the more our understanding grows.

We're only just beginning...



James Hoare
Editor in Chief

Editor's picks



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It was a point of principle that tore Europe in two through sectarian strife. Discover what sparked this religious revolt, the key theories and battlegrounds.



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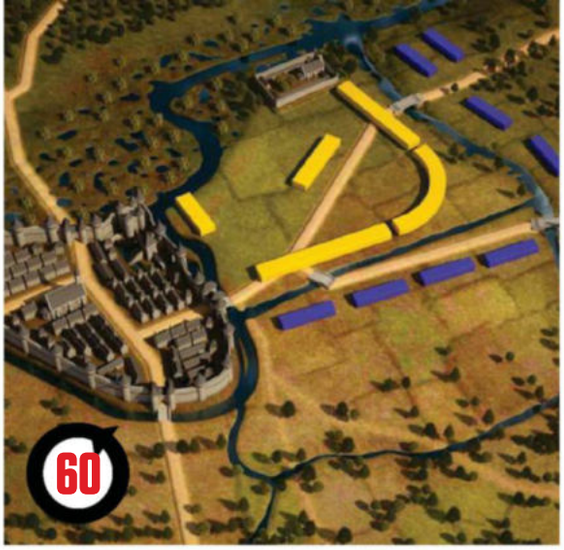
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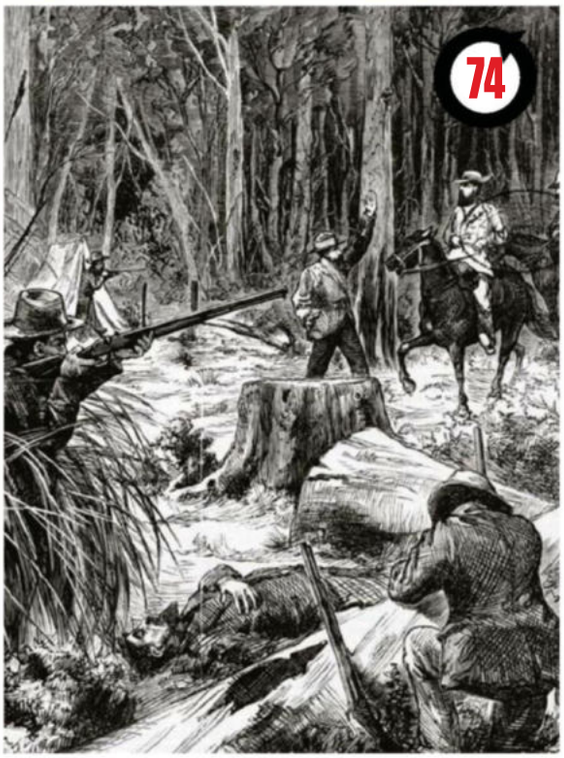
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HISTORY IN PICTURES

ALIENS IN THEIR OWN LAND

A group of Canadian-born Iroquois activists stage a war dance on the streets of Buffalo, New York on the eve of the deadline for 'alien registration'. Fearful of the war in Europe, the Alien Registration Act of 1940 (Smith Act) required all foreigners in the United States to be fingerprinted at a post office and be issued with an ID card. Shortly after making their point, the protesters registered.

1940


d Not FINGERPRINT
E PILGRIMS
THEY ARRIVED
OUR OWN -
IVE AMERICA

© Getty



HISTORY IN COLOUR

HIGH ON POWER

Military officer-turned-dictator of Panama, Manuel Noriega basks in the adulation of his supporters. Originally a CIA asset in Central America, Noriega slowly gathered absolute power in Panama and enriched himself with drug money. In 1988, he was indicted for his role in drug trafficking by a US court, but it would take a US invasion in 1989 before he would see trial and democracy was restored.

1988



© Getty





HISTORY IN PICTURES

"LET GEORGE DO IT!"

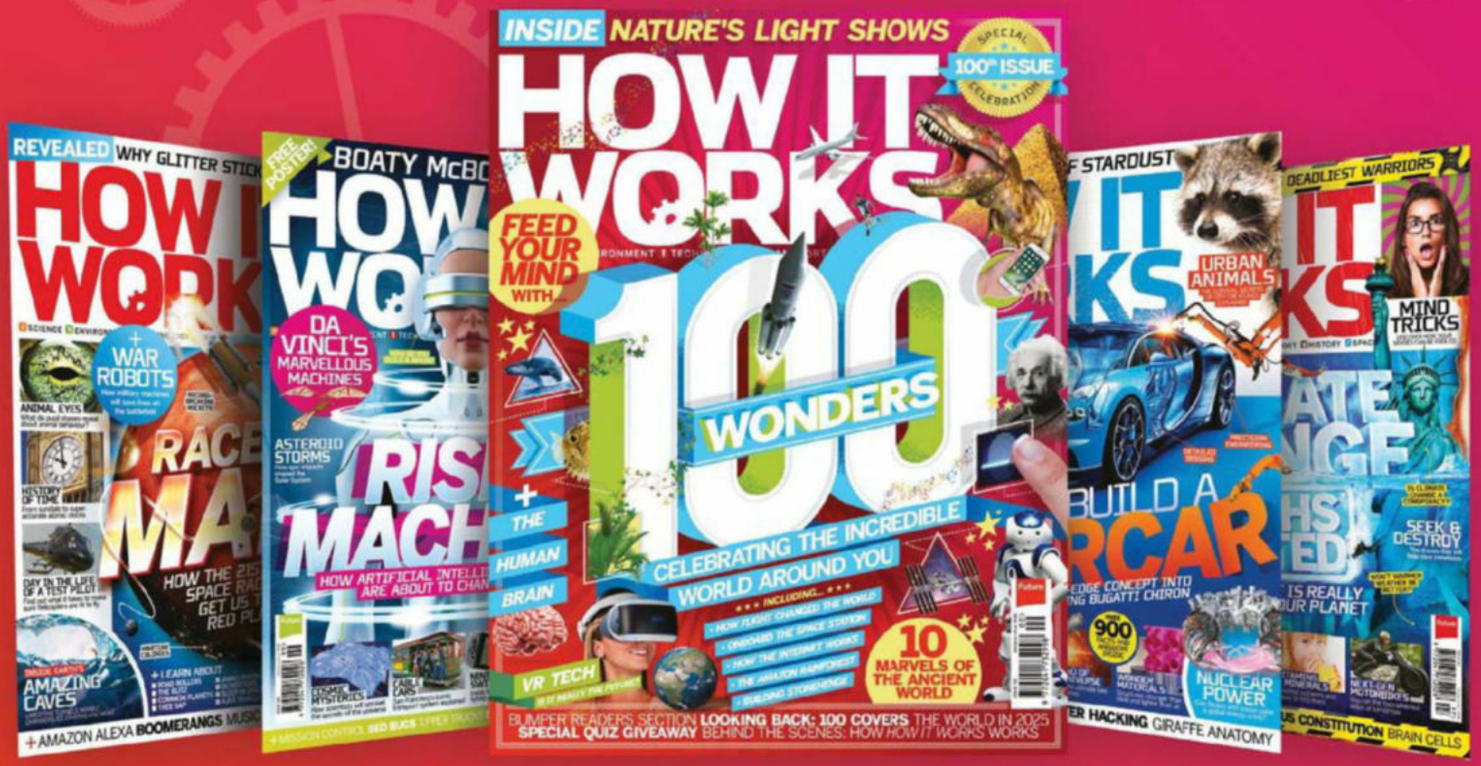
Music hall sensation George Formby strums his ukulele for the men of the British Expeditionary Force. Famous for cheeky tunes like 'When I'm Cleaning Windows', Formby's French tour in spring 1940 was just the first part of his morale-raising mission. In July he appeared in the musical comedy *Let George Do It!* in which he parachutes into the Nuremberg Rally to sock Hitler – surely every Brit's fantasy!

1940

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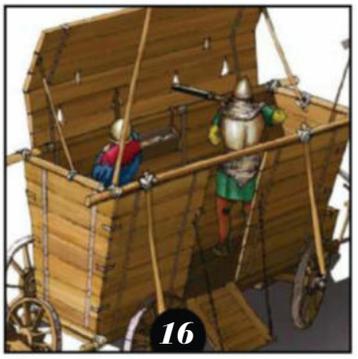
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ALL ABOUT

REFORMATION

Discover how Martin Luther's ecclesiastical awakening spread secretarian strife across Europe, divided families and sparked the bitterest bloodshed









The Protestant Reformation

How a single act of defiance sparked a wildfire of destruction and religious reform that swept through Europe and changed the world forever

MARTIN LUTHER'S DEFIANCE

Luther posts his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg in protest at some of the Church's practices, including the sale of indulgences as a means of raising money.



1517

A COLLISION COURSE WITH ROME

Luther publishes and circulates a damning pamphlet in which he discusses the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church, as well as openly criticising both the Church and the Pope.



1520

JOHN CALVIN

John Calvin publishes his version of reform, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. The Catholic Church is now under attack from different factions of reformers with very differing views.



After being tied to a stake, Tyndale was strangled before being burned

1536

DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES

Took **4 YEARS** to complete

A total of about **376** monasteries

For all monasteries with a revenue of less than per year **£200**



1536

THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Thomas More refuses to accept Henry as Head of the Church and is executed. William Tyndale is found guilty of heresy for his bible translation and burned at the stake.



1535-6

THE ACT OF SUPREMACY

Henry VIII instructs Thomas Cromwell to push through an act to make him Head of the Church in England. All ties with Rome are broken.



1534

THE PEACE OF AUGSBURG

This treaty ends conflict between the Holy Roman Empire and the Schmalkaldic League of Lutheran Princes. Lutheranism is to be tolerated and on track to becoming properly recognised in Europe.



1555

PROTESTANTISM COMES TO SCOTLAND

John Knox, a staunch follower of Calvin, is central to the establishment of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. England returns to Protestantism under Elizabeth I following Mary I's Catholic reign.



1559

FRANCE AT WAR WITH ITSELF

The French Religious Wars are actually **EIGHT** individual conflicts

As many as **4,000** Huguenots are executed at one time

By the time the Edict of Nantes ends the conflict nearly **4 MILLION** are dead



1562-1598

THE DIET OF WORMS

Summoned to answer questions before the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, Luther's actions are deemed unacceptable and he is condemned as a heretic. He is excommunicated by the Pope.



1521

HENRY VIII ATTACKS LUTHER

In answer to Luther's attack on the Church, Henry writes his own pamphlet *Septem Sacramentorum*, defending the Catholic Church. A grateful Pope gives Henry the title 'Defender of the Faith'.



1521 — Frederick the Wise keeps Luther inside Wartburg Castle, hoping this will lower his popularity

1521

A QUESTION OF NUMBERS

Martin Luther challenges the **7** sacraments of the Church

Calvin sets out **5** principles of theology



The Augsburg Confession consists of **28** ARTICLES of Lutheran Doctrine presented to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V

1517-1536

HENRY EXCOMMUNICATED

Following his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, Henry VIII begins his own path of action in direct conflict with the Pope. Despite being called a 'Defender of the Faith', he is excommunicated by the Pope.



1533

TYNDALE'S BIBLE PUBLISHED

In direct conflict with the Catholic Church's practice of services in Latin, William Tyndale publishes the first English translation. Those able to read can now question the wording and the Church's authority.



1529 — Luther and Zwingli meet to try and unify Protestants, but cannot agree their differences

1526

ANABAPTIST MOVEMENT IS BORN

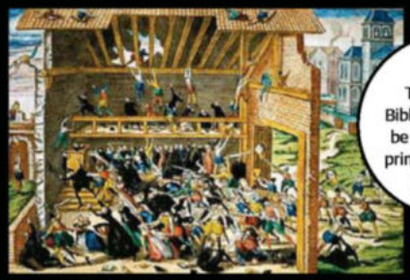
Inspired by Luther's dissent, the Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli forms the Anabaptists, denouncing the doctrine of baptism in children and advocating for adult baptisms when they are old enough to confess their sins.



1525

THE EDICT OF NANTES

Following the persecution of the Protestant Huguenots, King Henry IV of France grants them religious toleration. It brings civil order but is revoked by Henry's grandson, Louis, in 1685.



1560 – The Geneva Bible is the first to be mechanically printed and mass-produced

1598

THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR

The war actually lasts 29 YEARS, 11 MONTHS, 3 WEEKS & 1 DAY

Between **25-40%** of the German population are killed

The Holy Roman Empire consists of approximately **1,000** semi-autonomous states



1618-1648

THIRTY YEARS' WAR ENDS

The Treaty of Westphalia ends a destructive conflict between Catholics and Protestants from across Europe — mainly in Germany. It changes the European map and religious tolerance forever.



1648

INSIDE HISTORY

HUSSITE WAR WAGON

HUSSITE WARS, 15TH CENTURY

When religious differences brought rebellion in central Europe against the Holy Roman Empire and the Papacy, Hussite armies under Jan Zizka, a superb tactician and battlefield commander, were immediately at a disadvantage. The Hussite armies were comprised of farmers and villagers from the lands of Bohemia and the surrounding country. Although motivated by religious zeal, they were lightly armed and often unschooled in military manoeuvres. Preparing to confront the legions of heavily armed and armoured knights, principally under Sigismund of Hungary, Zizka sought a battlefield equaliser.

From 1420 to 1431, the Hussites repelled five 'crusades' intended to crush their resistance and extinguish their beliefs, which the Pope had labelled heretical. Due largely to Zizka's innovation, the Hussites developed war wagons, heavy weapons that essentially served as early tanks or personnel carriers. These were typically horse-drawn wagons previously used for hauling goods that were adapted as weapons with both offensive and defensive capabilities.

The heavy wooden wagons often transported more than 20 warriors armed with pikes, bow and arrow, flails, primitive firearms and other weapons. The wagons were sometimes chained together to form a strongpoint that was effective against enemy infantry and horsemen, particularly knights who were vulnerable when their horses were disabled, causing them to tumble to the ground. Once in place, the war wagon's rear door was opened, allowing the deployment of some of its occupants, while others fired through ports in the wooden sides. Wagons were usually positioned on open terrain where natural features protected their flanks or served as anchors for offensive envelopments. The tabors, as they came to be known, could be disassembled and relocated swiftly, providing the advantage of mobility.

The concept of the war wagon became common in numerous armies during the 15th century. However, the advent of accurate, heavy-calibre, field artillery saw its demise as a primary weapon.

Modified war machine

The typical Hussite wooden war wagon was modified to provide protection for its complement of soldiers. Wide boards were placed along the sides for additional strength against enemy fire. A roof-like covering was also attached and could be raised into position for soldiers to shoot arrows or fire handguns, primitive firearms developed after the introduction of gunpowder, through triangular ports or firing slits cut into the planks.

A mobile battlement

Around 16 to 22 Hussite troops usually manned a war wagon, including up to eight crossbowmen, two handgunners, eight soldiers armed with pikes or flails, and four shield carriers and drivers. Some quickly dispersed outside the confines of the wagon as the enemy approached, while others fought from inside. After the enemy had spent its momentum against the strong defensive positions, the soldiers advanced and put their adversaries to flight.

Raised ramparts

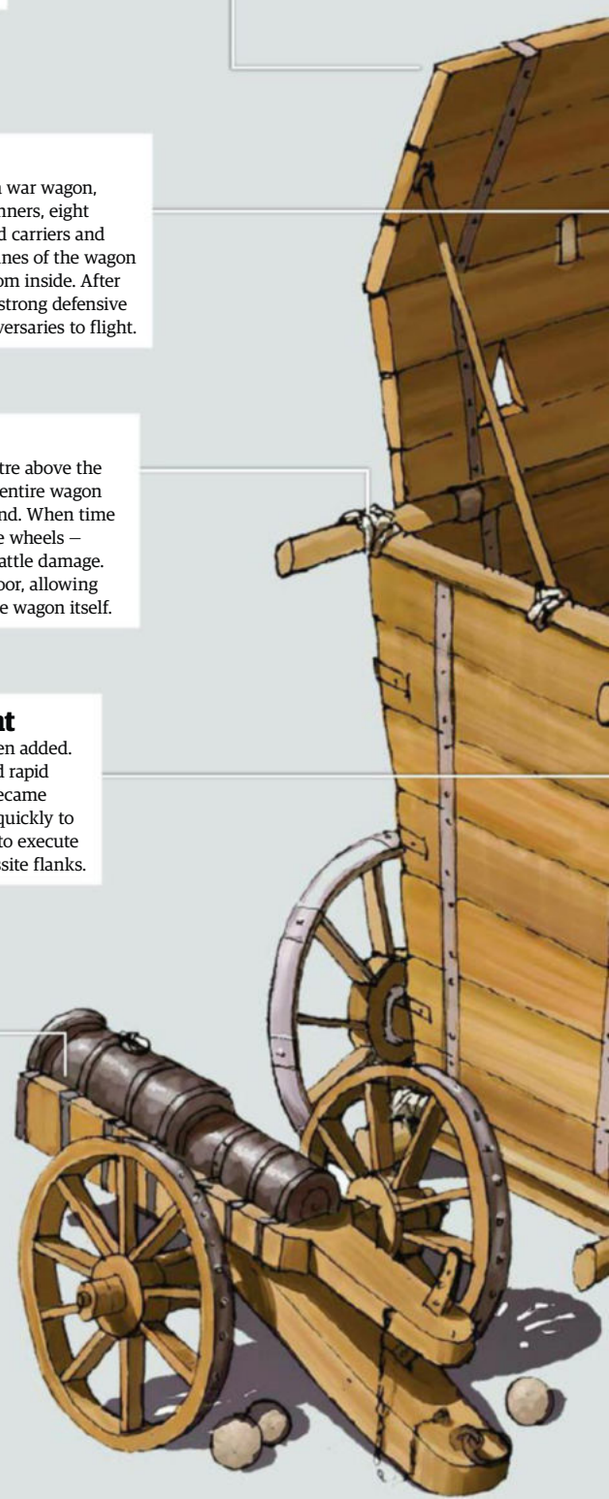
The height of the war wagon was at least one metre above the floor. Including the clearance for the wheels, the entire wagon was elevated well over 1.5 metres above the ground. When time permitted, slight trenches were dug to protect the wheels — vital to the wagon's mobility — from sustaining battle damage. A plank could also be lowered from the wagon floor, allowing soldiers to fire through ports from underneath the wagon itself.

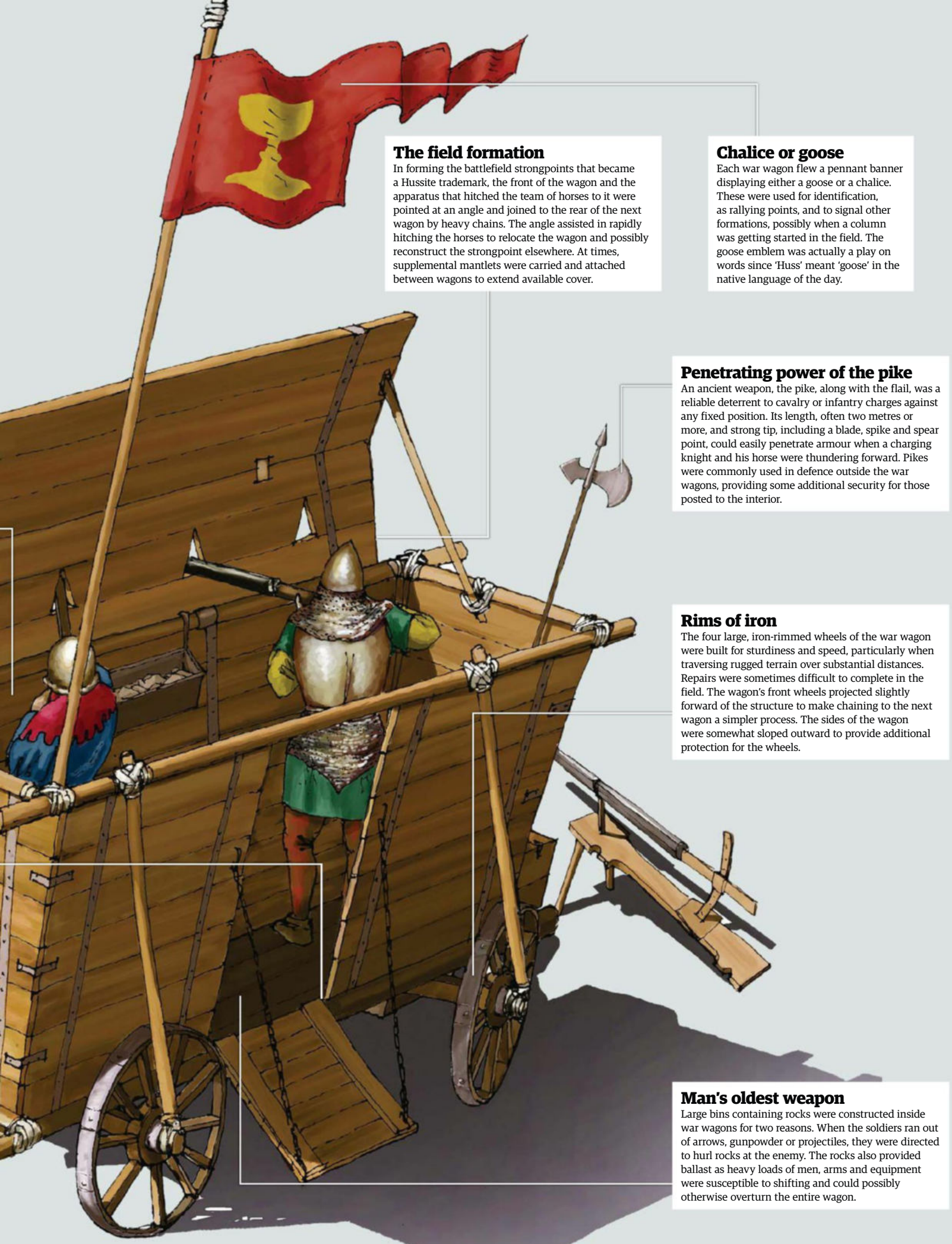
Rear exit for rapid deployment

As the war wagon developed, a rear door was often added. Turned away from the enemy, the door facilitated rapid ingress and egress from the wagon. As soldiers became accustomed to the movement, they exited more quickly to assume positions and await the enemy attack or to execute an envelopment as the wagons anchored the Hussite flanks.

Cannon inside or out

Small cannon called culverins were carried aboard some war wagons and either fired from inside the wagon itself or manhandled into the defensive perimeter and advantageous firing positions. As they became larger and more powerful, culverins also proved the undoing of the war wagon after a century of widespread usage in central Europe. Wooden walls could not stand up to the concentrated fire of heavier weapons.





The field formation

In forming the battlefield strongpoints that became a Hussite trademark, the front of the wagon and the apparatus that hitched the team of horses to it were pointed at an angle and joined to the rear of the next wagon by heavy chains. The angle assisted in rapidly hitching the horses to relocate the wagon and possibly reconstruct the strongpoint elsewhere. At times, supplemental mantlets were carried and attached between wagons to extend available cover.

Chalice or goose

Each war wagon flew a pennant banner displaying either a goose or a chalice. These were used for identification, as rallying points, and to signal other formations, possibly when a column was getting started in the field. The goose emblem was actually a play on words since 'Huss' meant 'goose' in the native language of the day.

Penetrating power of the pike

An ancient weapon, the pike, along with the flail, was a reliable deterrent to cavalry or infantry charges against any fixed position. Its length, often two metres or more, and strong tip, including a blade, spike and spear point, could easily penetrate armour when a charging knight and his horse were thundering forward. Pikes were commonly used in defence outside the war wagons, providing some additional security for those posted to the interior.

Rims of iron

The four large, iron-rimmed wheels of the war wagon were built for sturdiness and speed, particularly when traversing rugged terrain over substantial distances. Repairs were sometimes difficult to complete in the field. The wagon's front wheels projected slightly forward of the structure to make chaining to the next wagon a simpler process. The sides of the wagon were somewhat sloped outward to provide additional protection for the wheels.

Man's oldest weapon

Large bins containing rocks were constructed inside war wagons for two reasons. When the soldiers ran out of arrows, gunpowder or projectiles, they were directed to hurl rocks at the enemy. The rocks also provided ballast as heavy loads of men, arms and equipment were susceptible to shifting and could possibly otherwise overturn the entire wagon.

© Rocío Espín

THE Anatomy of

A LANDSKNECHT

EUROPE, 16TH CENTURY



PIKE

A FEARSOME SPIKE

The main weapon of a Landsknecht was a five-metre long wooden spear called a pike, and their favoured battlefield tactic was the pike square. The formation, which they copied from the Swiss, featured a square of up to 4,000 pikemen surrounded by swordsmen, axe-wielders and shooters, and proved to be an unstoppable and impenetrable force.

FEATHERS

THE FINISHING TOUCH

The Landsknecht armies were trailed by hundreds and thousands of followers, including wives, children and sexual companions as well as merchants. These traders would supply the soldiers with food as well as some of their garments, including the colourful feathers they used to decorate their hats.

BRIGHT COLOURS

STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

On account of their lives being "so short and brutish", Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I granted the soldiers exemption from sumptuary laws that dictated what clothing each social class could wear. As a result, the soldiers chose to dress in the most garish clothing that was possible to flaunt their social status and intimidate their enemies.

CODPIECE

KEEPING PARTS PRIVATE

The soldiers' trousers were made of two separate pieces of fabric covering each leg and were worn over linen drawers. This meant that their genitals were covered by only a thin layer of linen, and so to help preserve their modesty, a triangular piece of fabric called a codpiece was used to cover the gap.

ARMOUR

LACK OF PROTECTION

Unless the town or city that hired them issued the soldiers with armour, they would usually go without as they could not afford it themselves. However, those that did wear it usually had a breastplate with thigh guards called tassets, along with a steel skull cap that could be worn underneath a wide-brimmed hat.

ZWEIHÄNDER

CLOSE COMBAT WEAPONS

In battle, a line of Landsknecht wielding two-handed swords called zweihänder and poleaxes called halberd would charge at the enemy. Darting between their pikemen, they used their weapons to knock pikes aside and break up the enemy ranks. This tactic was known as 'forlorn hope' and was almost always fatal for those taking part.

PUFFS AND SLASHES

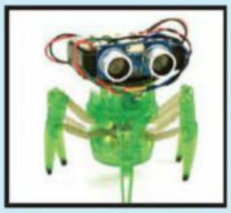
SOMETHING BORROWED

The gaudy clothing of the soldiers was often taken from their defeated opponents, and so usually had to be slashed and torn to make it fit. The layers underneath were then pulled through the holes to form puffs, often in contrasting colours. This distinctive look had the added benefit of disguising any rips caused in battle.

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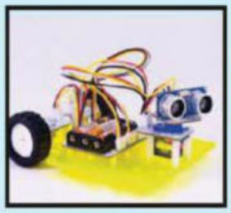
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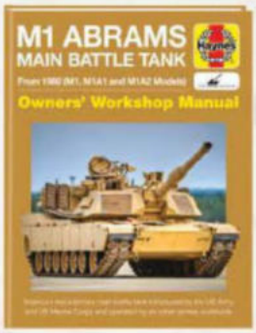
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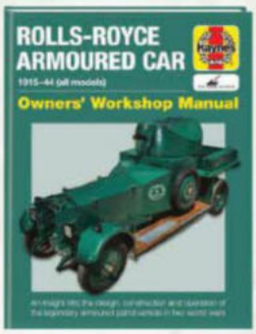
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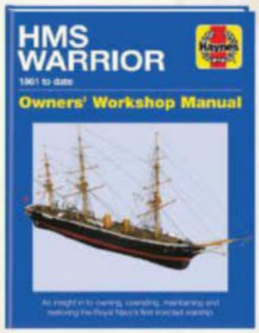
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Day in the life

A MÜNSTER ANABAPTIST

DISCOVER THE PRACTICES AND PERILS OF LIFE DURING THE MÜNSTER REBELLION

GERMANY, 1534-35

In the aftermath of Martin Luther's Reformation, the German city of Münster had become the centre of radical Anabaptism, a Christian movement that is an offshoot of Protestantism. Anabaptists had flocked to the city after its bishop had granted them religious freedom from persecution, but when he changed his mind they were able to fight back and take control. They managed to hold the city for around 16 months before succumbing to the bishop's brutal siege. The Anabaptist leaders were tortured and executed in the marketplace, and their bodies placed in cages that can still be seen hanging from St Lambert's Church today.

GET BAPTISED

Anabaptism is a faction of Protestantism that does not recognise infant baptism. Instead, Anabaptists believe that only adults who are able to make the conscious decision to confess their faith in Christ can be baptised. When the Anabaptists took control of Münster in 1534, a mass baptism was held and any adult citizen who refused to take part was expelled from the city.

SPREAD THE WORD

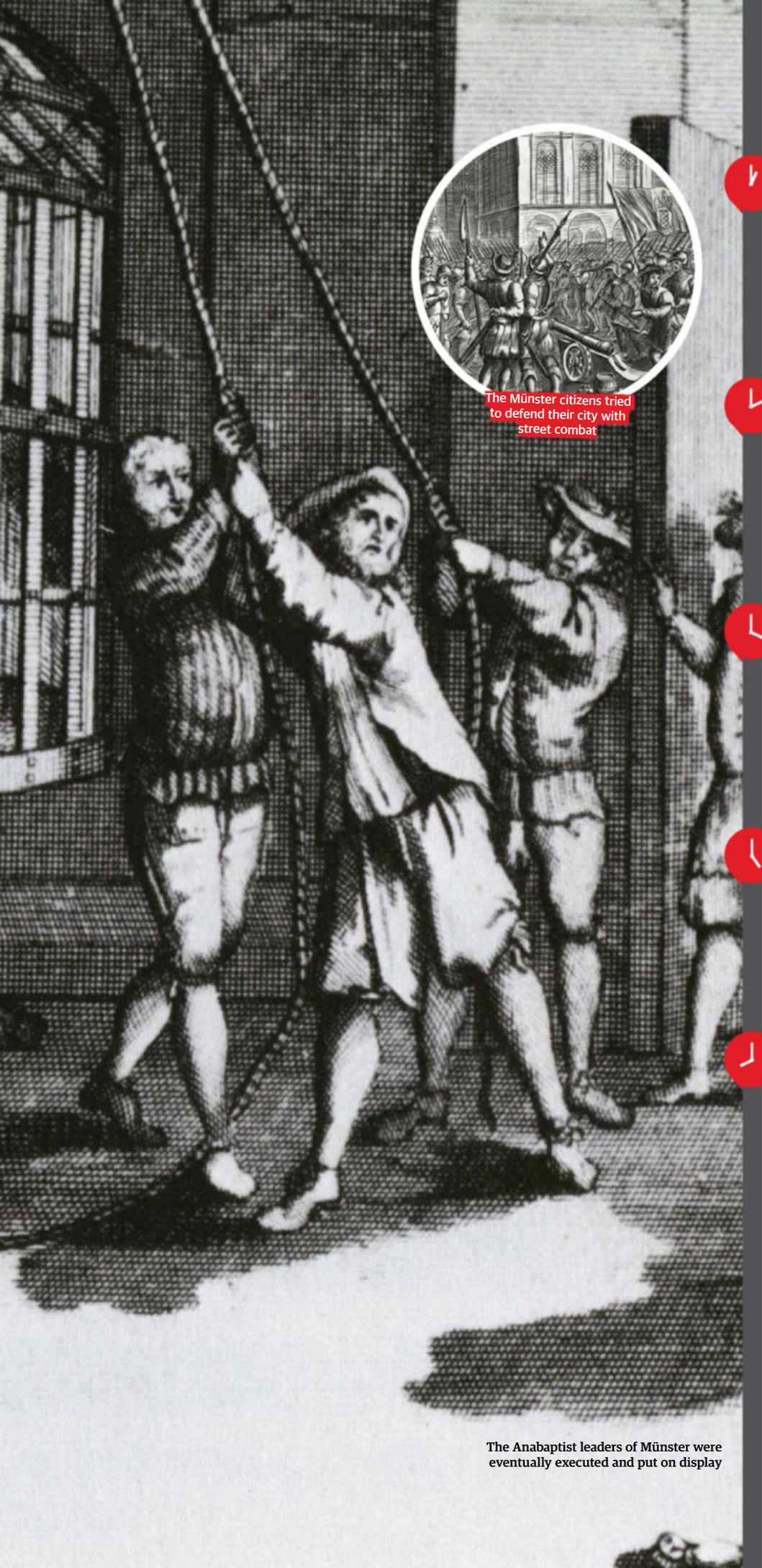
With the Anabaptists in power, Münster was declared as the seat of the 'New Jerusalem', as chosen by God, where the new Millennium would be heralded from. Evangelical Anabaptists began spreading this news to encourage more people to repent their sins and join them. The message successfully reached the oppressed Dutch Anabaptists, leading many to travel to the city.



Dancers prophesied the Anabaptist teaching on the streets of Münster

GO HUNGRY

Bishop Franz von Waldeck, who had been expelled from Münster by the Anabaptists, gathered together troops to launch a siege against the city. They formed an ever-closer ring around the settlement, cutting it off from the rest of the world in an attempt to prevent the spread of the Anabaptist faith and starve the citizens out. Many perished from the resulting famine.



The Münster citizens tried to defend their city with street combat

The Anabaptist leaders of Münster were eventually executed and put on display

GET MARRIED

When Jan van Leiden became the leader of Münster shortly after the Anabaptists took control, he legalised polygamy, allowing male citizens to have more than one wife. This was likely because the women outnumbered the men by more than three to one, since many of their fathers and husbands had either fled, been expelled or were killed in the siege.

SHARE GOODS

Jan van Leiden also established Münster as a community of goods, an institution practiced by the Jerusalem church. All deeds and debt documents were destroyed as a result, and all property and wealth was evenly distributed among everyone in the community. This also helped to ensure that the poor received their fair share of food during the bishop's siege.

DEFEND THE CITY

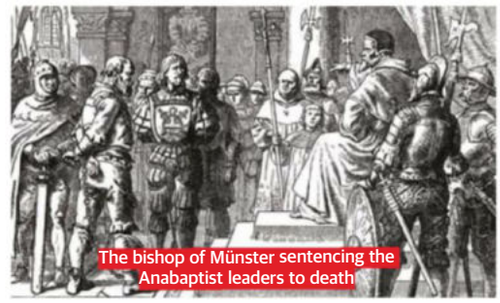
Although Franz von Waldeck's troops mainly tried to starve the citizens of Münster out, they did launch a few attacks on the city. One such battle saw 8,000 German Landsknechts storm the walls, but the Anabaptists managed to defeat them, leaving 3,000 dead. The Anabaptists also launched a few attacks of their own, taking out some of the surrounding enemy's cannon.

SURRENDER

More than a year into the siege, a citizen of Münster betrayed the city by leading the bishop's troops through a weak spot in its defence. The starving population fought for hours, attempting to gain back control of the streets, until Franz von Waldeck eventually promised them safe conduct if they agreed to surrender.

BE KILLED

Unfortunately the bishop's promise was merely a trick, and most of the citizens of Münster were massacred while his troops continued their rampage through the city. Those who did survive had to witness their Anabaptist leaders be tortured with red-hot tongs, stabbed through the heart and put on display in large metal cages that hung from the church steeple.



The bishop of Münster sentencing the Anabaptist leaders to death

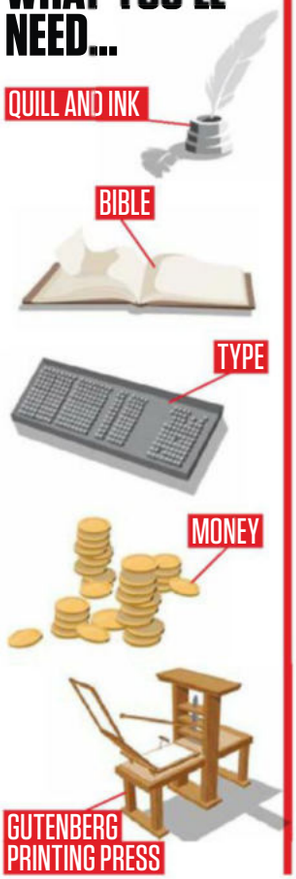
© Alamy

How to CREATE A REFORMATION PAMPHLET

THE PRINTING PRESS WAS THE SECRET OF PROTESTANTISM'S SUCCESS GERMANY, 1520S

For Martin Luther, printing was "the latest and greatest gift by which God intends the work of true religion to be known throughout the world". By 1524, more than two million copies of as many as 2,400 individual pamphlets were being produced in the Holy Roman Empire and, across Europe, there had been a 1,000 per cent rise in pamphlet production since 1518. Typically between 10 and 16 pages long, these cheap, provocative literary wares helped to transform Europe's religious landscape. "Every day," a disgruntled Catholic complained in 1521, "it rains Luther's books... nothing else sells." And Luther was only the most prolific of the many Protestant maestros of the pamphlet genre.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED...



The clerical estate
The Reformation transformed the nature of the priesthood, with old ideas about a special clerical caste coming under assault.

The Word of God
Translations of the Bible into vernacular languages had taken place before, but came into its own during the Reformation.

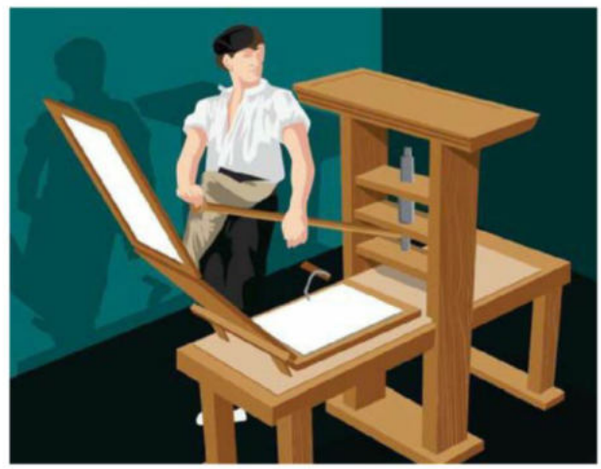
Pulpit bashing
Preaching was the lifeblood of the first Protestants, with pulpits often replacing altars as the focal point in churches.

Firebrand
Martin Luther is well described as an accidental revolutionary, the theology professor whose private spiritual quest ended up transforming Christendom.

Indulgences
The early Reformers attacked indulgences, whereby remission from time in purgatory could be secured through good works or even financial payments.







01 MAKE A STATEMENT

The salvation of souls is at stake here, so be provocative. Your task is to identify the wounds of Christendom and tell us how to heal them. Challenge the status quo and, when your enemies bark, howl back even louder. And remember that ahead of pamphleteering, a little advance publicity can't hurt. Earning a reputation as a local agitator is excellent strategy.

02 PRINT AND PRINT AGAIN

It's a competitive business, so don't be afraid of milking your bestsellers – Luther's pamphlets go through dozens of editions. Remember, an average press can turn out 1,500 sheets a day, and you have to keep up with countless rivals in places like Wittenberg and Strasbourg. Adding in woodcut illustrations is a sure way of gaining an audience.

How not to... create a reformation pamphlet

Early modern printing was an imperfect process. The paper used for pamphlets was of poor quality, copy-editing protocols were often sloppy, and printers usually rushed works through the presses to steal a march on their competitors. In 1525, Luther addressed a preface to "my dear printers, who so openly rob and steal from each other". He would have been willing to tolerate the fraud and theft within the industry if only they "did not corrupt and ruin my books so badly in the process". Texts were churned out so quickly "that when they come back to me I no longer recognise them". Something was always "missing in that place; that bit has been transposed; that part has not been corrected". Luther was also alert to widespread piracy and insisted on the use of complex type that was difficult to replicate. Rogue versions of his works still did good business.







03 REVISE YOUR MESSAGE

It's all about reacting to circumstances. When your enemies throw pamphlets back at you, as they surely will, reply in print immediately. Use their criticisms to show how wide they are off the mark. Don't be afraid of fine-tuning your ideas, and follow the news: if you can link your theological message to social or political concerns, then so much the better.

04 DISTRIBUTE

Build network of trusted couriers and establish markets in towns with thriving academic and commercial communities. And keep prices low! If you're trying to spread your message to other places, be aware that Catholic authorities are constantly on the look out for pamphlet smugglers and will inflict terrible punishments on anyone they catch.





05 FIND YOUR AUDIENCE

You want to appeal to as much of society as possible. Latin texts will go down well with the literati, but they are only going to get you so far. The people in the alehouses and the markets want pamphlets in a language they can understand. Using stories from everyday life will always go down well, and a little humour goes a long way.

06 DEFEND YOURSELF

If someone threatens to excommunicate you, take it in your stride. Burn the papers publicly if need be. If you're hauled before some tribunal, they'll want you to trip yourself up so just remain calm and hammer out the basics of your beliefs. Above all, watch out for dissension in your own ranks: don't let the radicals hijack your message.

4 FAMOUS... REFORMATION PAMPHLETEERS



MARTIN LUTHER

WITTENBERG, 1483-1546

The originator of the Reformation and its most energetic pamphleteer. In 1523 alone he produced more than 50 significant works.



HANS SACHS

NUREMBERG, 1494-1576

Not all pamphleteers were learned theologians. Sachs, a cobbler by trade, produced dozens of important pamphlets and was one of Luther's greatest supporters.



LUCAS CRANACH

WITTENBERG, 1472-1553

The images in pamphlets were crucial and Cranach, an intimate friend of Luther, took time out from loftier artistic pursuits to become a master of the pamphlet woodcut.



ULRICH ZWINGLI

ZURICH, 1484-1531

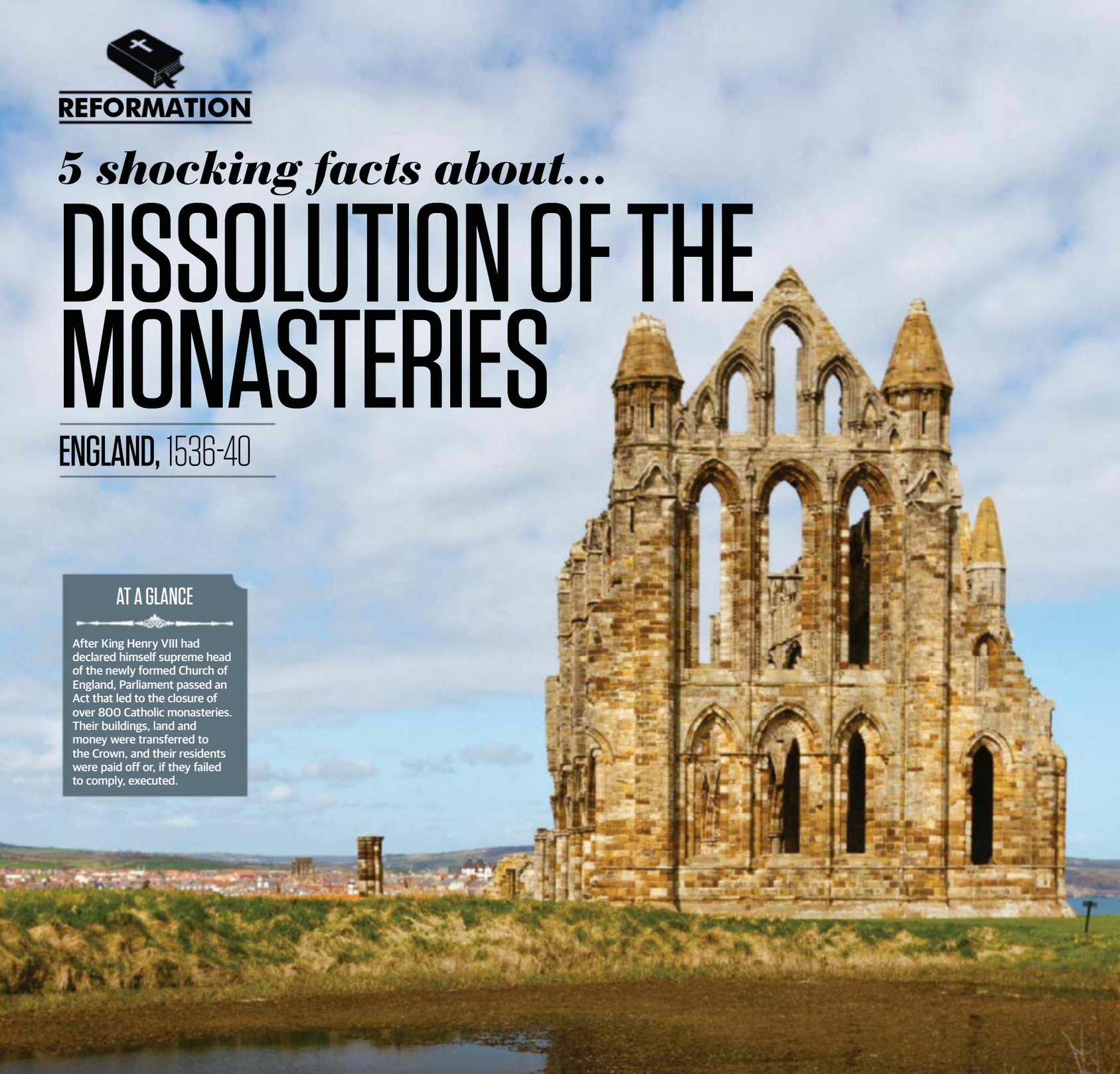
Zwingli led the religious transformation of Zurich. As reflected in his pamphlets, his theological vision departed in radical ways from Luther's.

© Ed Crooks

5 shocking facts about...

DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES

ENGLAND, 1536-40



AT A GLANCE

After King Henry VIII had declared himself supreme head of the newly formed Church of England, Parliament passed an Act that led to the closure of over 800 Catholic monasteries. Their buildings, land and money were transferred to the Crown, and their residents were paid off or, if they failed to comply, executed.

01 The process was quick

Once the act was passed, the government moved extremely quickly to close down the monasteries for fear that the residents would try to hide or sell the treasures inside before they could be claimed. By 1540, 50 religious buildings were being closed each month, with the land quickly rented out and any valuables swiftly auctioned off.

02 It was very profitable

Not only did the king make some serious money from the selling of monastery land and goods, he also decided to charge a fee to all of those that were allowed to remain open. It is thought that he amassed a profit of about £1.5 million from the Dissolution, although much of this money was eventually spent on wars with France and Scotland.

03 The locals benefited too

Whatever the government did not take from the monasteries was often pillaged by the local population. They would even dismantle the buildings themselves for construction materials, quickly turning them into ruins. The gentry who bought the land, which amounted to over a quarter of all the cultivated land in England, also prospered.

04 The North revolted

In October 1536, over 30,000 people from the north of England marched to York to demand the monasteries be reopened. The march became known as the Pilgrimage of Grace and although the rebels were initially promised a discussion of their demands, the king ordered the leaders be arrested and for 200 of them to be executed.

05 It may have inspired a nursery rhyme

Little Jack Horner is believed to be about Thomas Horner, once a steward at Glastonbury Abbey. Before the abbey was closed, he was sent to London with the deeds to several manors hidden inside a Christmas pie, but decided to steal those of a manor in Somerset for himself during the journey.

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Hall of Fame
KEY REFORMERS AND THEIR OPPONENTS

The Reformation of the 16th century changed the religious, political and cultural landscape of Europe forever. Meet the fearless leaders that made it happen and the opponents that tried to stand in their way



MARTIN LUTHER
GERMAN 1483-1546

Martin Luther's writings changed the course of religious

By the time Martin Luther had become a monk, corruption was widespread in the Roman Catholic Church. The selling of 'indulgences' - promised remission from punishments for sin - was being abused by the clergy, helping them to become wealthy and powerful. Luther was appalled by this practice, believing that the Bible should be the only religious authority, and that Christians could only be saved by their faith and not their deeds. His thoughts weren't entirely new, but he was able to publicise them across Europe thanks to the invention of the printing press. His '95 Theses' later became the foundation of the Protestant Reformation and inspired the Peasant's War.

Martin Luther was the first person to translate the entire Bible into German, making it accessible for the general public to read

"Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God" ***Martin Luther***



HENRY VIII
ENGLISH 1491-1547

Henry VIII's divorce kick-started the English Reformation

King Henry VIII had no problem supporting the Roman Catholic Church when it let him get his way, such as when he was granted papal dispensation to marry his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon. However, when it refused to let him divorce Catherine on the grounds that she had not produced a son, he was not so happy with its powers. He decided that the Pope's jurisdiction was illegal, and so declared himself Supreme Head of a new church, the Church of England. His new powers allowed him to marry and divorce whoever he liked and close down hundreds of monasteries throughout England.

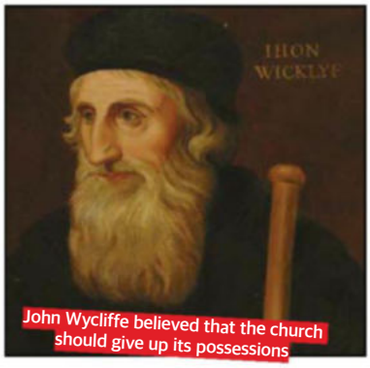
Despite the Reformation, Henry VIII was never Protestant and passed the Six Articles, ruling that the Church of England remain Catholic

POPE CLEMENT VII
ITALIAN 1478-1534

When King Henry VIII decided he wanted to divorce Catherine of Aragon, he needed the consent of Pope Clement VII. Having had papal dispensation before, he thought there would be no problem in getting it again, but there was one major complication: Catherine was the aunt of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, who Clement was at the mercy of since his alliance with France led to the sack of Rome. Charles wasn't pleased about his relative being cast aside, and so Clement had to refuse the King's request. As a result, Henry broke away from the Catholic Church to form the Church of England.



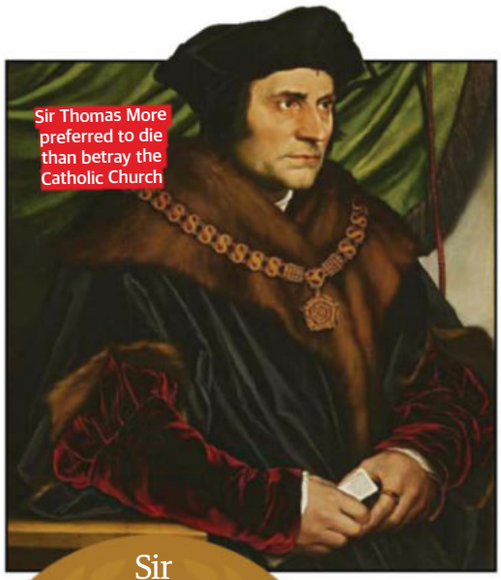
Many blame Pope Clement VII for causing England's break from the Catholic Church



John Wycliffe believed that the church should give up its possessions

JOHN WYCLIFFE
ENGLISH 1320S-1384

The Oxford scholar John Wycliffe was one of the first to launch an attack on the beliefs and practices of the Church. To discredit its authority, he began translating the Bible into English for the first time, making it possible for everyone to read the law of God for themselves. His preaching gained him many followers – the Lollards – and is regarded by many as the precursor to the Protestant Reformation.


Sir Thomas More preferred to die than betray the Catholic Church

SIR THOMAS MORE

ENGLISH 1478-1535

As Lord Chancellor, Sir Thomas More was one of King Henry VIII's most trusted advisors, but religious differences brought a fatal end to their relationship. A devout Catholic, More disapproved of Henry's divorce from Catherine of Aragon and decision to break from Rome. He resigned from the chancellorship but when he refused to swear an oath to the new head of the Church of England he was arrested, found guilty of treason and beheaded.

"I die the King's good servant, but God's first"

last words of Sir Thomas More

Sir Thomas More was canonised by the Catholic Church as saint in 1935 and has been deemed a 'Reformation martyr' by the Church of England

JAN HUS

CZECH 1369-1415

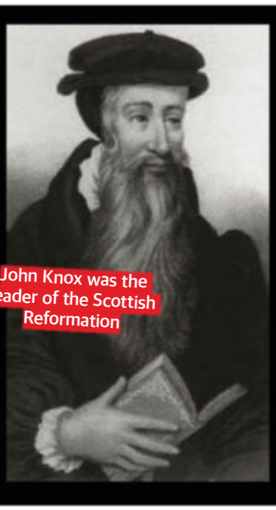
Influenced by the writings of John Wycliffe, the preacher Jan Hus attacked the moral failings of the clergy a full century before Martin Luther arrived. He became a prominent representative of the Bohemian Reformation, a predecessor to Protestantism and, as a result, was met with a great deal of resistance from the papacy. In 1414, he was called to justify his views at the Council of Constance, which was set up to find a solution to the divide within the Church. Hus was promised safe-conduct, but when he refused to recant his writings, he was condemned to death and burnt at the stake.


Jan Hus was one of the first church reformers

HULDRYCH ZWINGLI

SWISS 1484-1531

Under Huldrych Zwingli's leadership as the priest of Grossmünster, the Reformation was widely adopted in Zurich. He passionately preached against the excessive veneration of saints, the celibacy of the priesthood and fasting, sharing in Martin Luther's view on the authority of the Bible. However, he applied its teachings more rigorously than Luther and was met with resistance from Catholics outside of Zurich. While accompanying the city's forces into battle against them, he was killed aged 47.


John Knox was the leader of the Scottish Reformation

JOHN KNOX

SCOTTISH CIRCA 1513-1572

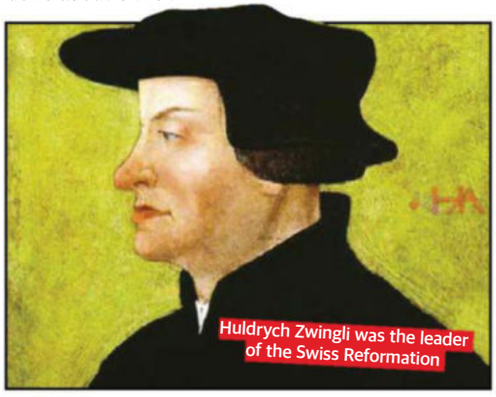
Although he was training to be a Roman Catholic priest, John Knox began to take notice of the Protestant Reformation sweeping through Europe, particularly the teachings of John Calvin. He soon began preaching for reform in Scotland, but when Mary Queen of Scots, a devout Roman Catholic, was crowned, he was forced to flee to England and then Europe. Upon his return, he helped form the Scottish Reformed Church and led the Protestants throughout Queen Mary's reign.

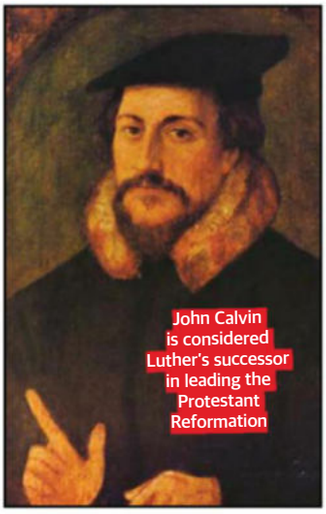

Charles V struggled to hold his empire together throughout the Reformation

CHARLES V, HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR

SPANISH 1500-1558

During his reign as Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V faced three main challenges: rivalry with France, war with the Turks, and the spread of the Protestant movement. As a devout Catholic, he opposed Protestantism, but the first two battles largely distracted him from the third. He officially rejected Martin Luther's teachings in 1521, although he agreed that the Catholic Church was in need of reform. However, opposition from both Protestants and Catholics meant that he failed to get anything done about either.


Huldrych Zwingli was the leader of the Swiss Reformation


John Calvin is considered Luther's successor in leading the Protestant Reformation

JOHN CALVIN

FRENCH 1509-1564

While Martin Luther's teachings were spreading through France, law student John Calvin was developing his own ideas about Christian theology. In 1533, he broke from the Roman Catholic Church and, because the French government was against the Reformation, was forced to flee to Switzerland. There he published *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, a statement of Protestant belief that emphasised the sovereignty of the scriptures and the doctrine of predestination. He soon became a minister in Strasbourg and was then invited to Geneva, where he led a reform movement that influenced Protestantism throughout Europe and North America.



SPIES THAT WON WWII

These are the spies, secret agents, codebreakers and saboteurs – Britain's secret army who fought in the shadows in a bid to cripple Nazi Germany

Written by Will Lawrence and Mike Haskew

Following the disaster that unfolded during the Battle of France, Britain found itself standing alone in the world; the only major power standing between Hitler and the conquest of Western Europe. With his army shattered and the threat of invasion a near certainty, Churchill needed a plan to take control of the dire situation. So he turned to his secret services, and the newly formed Special Operations Executive, to carry the war back to Hitler. A unique group of secret agents, overseas guerrilla fighters, code-breaking boffins and specially trained saboteurs would work tirelessly to turn the tide of conflict in the Allies' favour.

Here we choose 20 of the most notable agents and reveal their stories. Most worked to bring down tyranny. Some chose to support it. Many sacrificed their lives. Whatever their role, their exploits stand as some of most intriguing tales from World War II...

"MOST WORKED TO BRING DOWN TYRANNY. SOME CHOSE TO SUPPORT IT. MANY SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES"



IAN FLEMMING

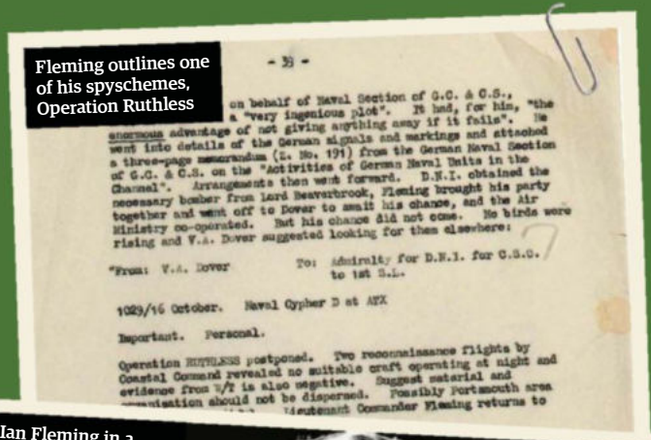
The James Bond creator enjoyed a distinguished career in military intelligence

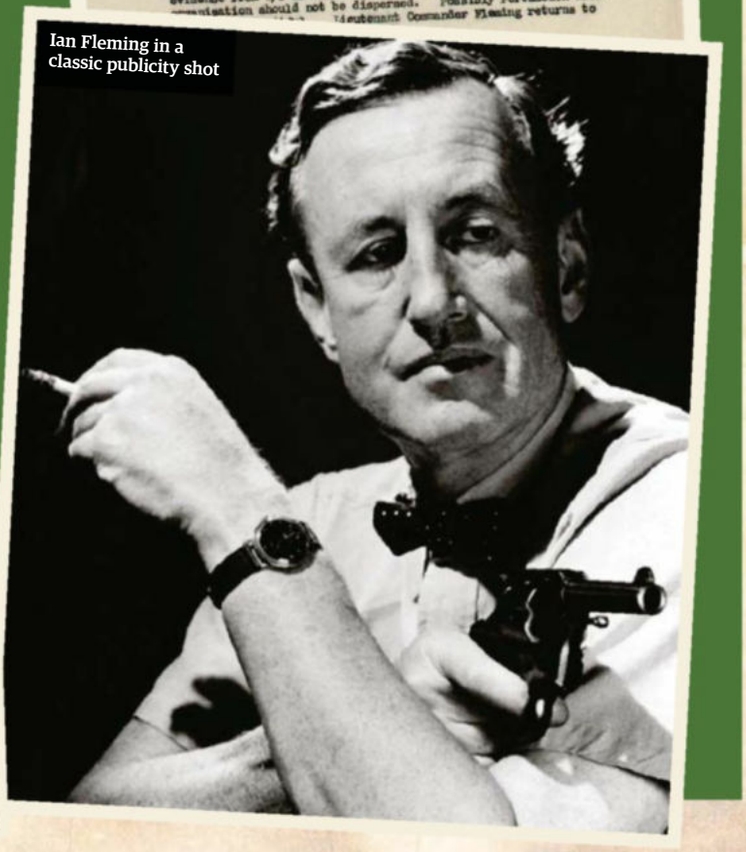
As a journalist, Ian Fleming journeyed to Russia in 1939 to report on a trade deal, although his real mission was to ascertain Russia's military strength and morale ahead of what looked like certain war. When Britain did finally enter the conflict, Fleming was appointed as assistant to Rear-Admiral John Godfrey, the director of Naval Intelligence, and took up the position of lieutenant in the Special Branch of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, a rank he was later to bestow on his famous literary creation, James Bond.

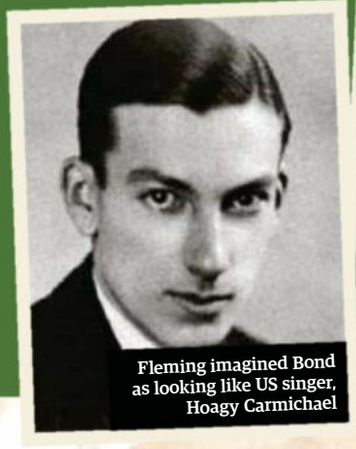
Fleming helped develop ties between the UK and US over the running of secret agents and was heavily involved in the formation of the 30 Assault Unit, a British commando group designed to support troops and glean vital information for the war effort. Among their greatest achievements were the capture of an Enigma machine – the key piece of German encryption equipment – and the seizure of the complete records of the German navy.

He is also widely credited as the author of the Trout Memo, which culminated in Operation Mincemeat, a deception to disguise the 1943 Allied invasion of Sicily. Mincemeat saw the body of a dead tramp dressed as a British officer, supplied with false papers, and dumped off the coast of Spain. It was washed up and intercepted by German agents.

Fleming's knowledge of secret operations found voice in the creation of the most famous fictional spy of all time, James Bond, who he cast as the hero of his 1953 novel *Casino Royale*. Fleming wrote a further 13 Bond books. The hero's name was taken from an ornithologist, though the likes of M and Q branch were drawn from his experiences in British intelligence. It is thought that the character of M was based on Fleming's boss, Rear-Admiral Godfrey.


Fleming outlines one of his spyschemes, Operation Ruthless


Ian Fleming in a classic publicity shot


Fleming imagined Bond as looking like US singer, Hoagy Carmichael

ROGER LANDES

The betrayed agent who got his revenge



After working with Claude de Baissac, Roger Landes took over the Scientist network, though was forced to escape into Spain when betrayed by French Resistance leader André Grandclement. In the UK he was suspected of being a turncoat, though was found innocent and returned to France to help rebuild the network ahead of the D-Day operations. Once on the ground the Resistance leaders dispatched Grandclement and Landes was lumbered with the unenviable job of killing Grandclement's wife.

'TOMMY' YEO-THOMAS

The super-spy who inspired James Bond

Yeo-Thomas, who was code-named White Rabbit by the Gestapo, was parachuted into France three times before eventually being captured and tortured. He was taken to Buchenwald concentration camp but managed to escape. Once, while on a train in France, he engaged in conversation with Klaus Barbie, the notorious Nazi known as the 'Butcher of Lyon'. Like Bond, he is said to have employed a number of techniques to escape his enemies — including jumping from a train, strangling a guard, wearing disguises and riding in a hearse — and is also said to have been a hit with women. He went on to win the George Cross.

LEO MARKS

The SEO's chief cryptographer

Conscripted in January 1942, Marks trained as a cryptographer and went on to join the SOE (Special Operations Executive), rather than joining colleagues at Bletchley Park. He briefed a clutch of SOE agents sent into occupied Europe, including Noor Inayat-Khan as well as the Grouse/Swallow team of saboteurs sent to destroy Hitler's heavy water facility in Norway.

Marks recognised that there were some serious defects in the existing cipher system and so set about working with agents on memorising unpublished and memorable poems. He was also credited with reinventing the one-time pad, whereby agent and home office held the only two copies of pads of random letters used to communicate, which the agent destroyed after its initial use.

FRANCIS SUTTILL

The network mastermind betrayed at the last minute

Francis Suttill was chosen to establish and run the Prosper network based in Paris and his list of successful missions included the sabotage of the Chaingy power station, the destruction of 1,000 litres of petrol and a clutch of attacks on goods trains running the Orleans-Paris line. He also founded a safe house at the School of National Agriculture at Grignon, which has been cited as one of the most important SOE houses in France. The collapse of the Prosper network was a tragedy in which hundreds of SOE agents and Resistance fighters were swiftly betrayed and captured.



JOZEF GABČÍK & JAN KUBIŠ

The Czech soldiers who gave their life in Operation Anthropoid

These two soldiers in the Czechoslovak army-in-exile worked under SOE instruction in Operation Anthropoid, which led to the assassination of SS Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich in Prague during May 1942. The mission was the only successful assassination of a senior Nazi officer during World War II, although it proved a pyrrhic victory, prompting terrible SS reprisals conducted against civilians in the region.

Jozef Gabčík and Jan Kubiš were among a number of troops parachuted into Czechoslovakia. They met with anti-Nazi sympathisers and, after planning and aborting a number of assassination missions, settled on an ambush of Heydrich's car. On the morning of 27 May, as Heydrich approached, Gabčík stepped in front of the car and opened fire with his British-issued Sten sub-machine gun, which jammed, allowing Heydrich to return fire with his pistol. Kubiš then launched an explosive at the car, fragments of which ripped through the bumper, embedding shrapnel in Heydrich's left-hand side. The gunfight continued before Gabčík and Kubiš made their escape.

The assassins presumed their attack had failed. Heydrich, however, succumbed to his wounds and died on 4 June. Hitler was absolutely furious at what had happened, and ordered immediate reprisals, which included the Lidice Massacre where a whole village was destroyed. Despite their brutal retaliation, the Nazis were unable to find the perpetrators until resistance fighter Karel Čurda turned himself in to the Gestapo and betrayed the team's local contacts. Following a vicious manhunt characterised by brutal Gestapo interrogation techniques, Kubiš, Gabčík and the other parachutists were eventually besieged in the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Cathedral in Prague. Here they died, either during the ferocious gunfight or via suicide as the Nazis closed in.



Jan Kubiš, whose explosive went on to kill Heydrich



Heydrich's Mercedes after the attack

AGENCY WORK

Discover the dizzying array of British intelligence organisations

MI9: Responsible for the interrogation of enemy prisoners of war until 1941, MI9 also assisted in the escape and evasion of Allied prisoners and the debriefing of those who successfully reached England. Further, MI9 communicated with prisoners who were still in captivity, sending them instructions and equipment through clandestine sources.

MI6: Also known as the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), MI6 serves to this day as the primary foreign intelligence agency of the British government. During World War II, MI6 established covert operations offices in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere, conducting successful operations in all theatres of the conflict.

MI8: Serving as the signals intelligence section of the War Office, it was the responsibility of MI8 to establish and manage a worldwide network of radio transmission posts referred to as the 'Y Stations'. MI8 was responsible for communications security and for the Radio Security Service (RSS) for 18 months during 1939-1941, prior to the absorption of the RSS by MI6.

MI7: The genesis of British press and propaganda management occurred with MI7. At the outbreak of World War II, the section was reconstituted with primarily civilian personnel working as censors and propagandists. In the spring of 1940, most of the functions of MI7 were transferred to the British Ministry of Information.

MI5: Also called the Security Service, MI5 served as the domestic counterintelligence and security section of British Intelligence. During World War II, MI5, which remains active today, developed and administered the XX double agent programme and controlled the entry of foreign nationals to Britain through the London Reception Centre at the Royal Patriotic School.

MI10: Responsible for the analysis of various types of technical intelligence across the globe during World War II, MI10 regularly conducted evaluations of captured enemy weapons and a wide range of emerging technology as it was brought to Britain from the field. MI10 was eventually merged into the Government Communications Headquarters.



The modern MI6 Building in London; an iconic landmark in the spy world

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION:

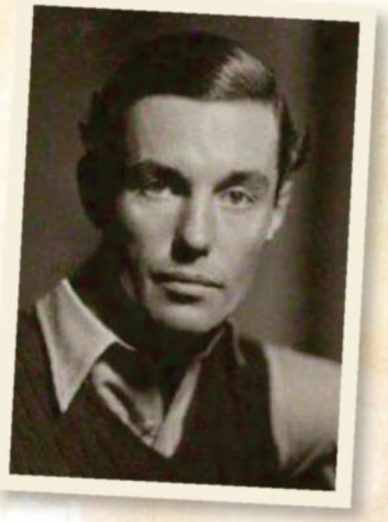
Also known as Room 39, the Naval Intelligence Division (NID) was created in 1912. During World War II, NID handled naval Ultra transmission decrypts and fielded information-gathering operatives with its Commando 30 Assault Unit. NID officers were active in British warzones across the world and were present at Operations Tourch and Overlord.

PETER FLEMING

The dashing writer and adventurer was a prime mover during the secret war in the East

The elder brother of Ian, the effortlessly glamorous Peter Fleming became a prominent figure in British intelligence, working with Colin Gubbins on the formation of the Auxiliary Units, who would fight a resistance war in the UK should the Germans complete a successful invasion. When Gubbins left to form the SOE, he took Fleming with him.

In April 1941, armed with a ton of explosives, £40,000 in notes and gold sovereigns and Italian pocket dictionaries, Fleming and a team of agents entered Northern Greece. They held a key valley in Macedonia, the Monastir Gap, against the might of the German army, before withdrawing and playing havoc with enemy communications, blowing up bridges and railways as they went. Fleming and his men also helped evacuate the British Vice Consul and diplomatic staff to Cairo.



His abilities saw him transferred to India and then Ceylon to head up D Division in charge of military deception operations in Southeast Asia. He played a prominent role in the British invasion of Burma – a territory that had been lost during the Japanese invasion of 1942 – planting information that claimed British forces in the region were much larger than they really were. In June 1945 his efforts were rewarded with an OBE.

NOOR INAYAT KHAN

A courageous spy princesses whose life ended in tragedy

Descended from Tipu Sultan, an 18th century ruler of Mysore, Inayat Khan joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force — taking the name Nora Baker — before entering the SOE in February 1943. Despite reservations about her suitability for a secret agency role, she became the first female wireless operator sent to France and survived the collapse of the Prosper network.

Though ordered to leave by Colonel Maurice Buckmaster, head of SOE's French operations, she bravely stayed on and, with all the Prospect leaders in captivity, became the single most important SOE asset in the entire region as she continued to transmit information back to England. Unfortunately, in October 1943 the Gestapo captured her after she was betrayed by a double agent. She twice escaped her captors only to be retaken immediately, and when she was transferred to a prison at Pforzheim she is said to have been perpetually chained in a crouching position.

She was moved to the death camp at Dachau and executed in July 1944. An unnamed guard gave a description of the death of a woman who is thought to be Inayat Khan, and its content is extremely upsetting. She was awarded the George Cross in 1949.

ALAN TURING

The mathematical genius who helped crack the Enigma code

Alan Turing was a brilliant mathematician born in London. He studied at both Cambridge and Princeton universities before going on to work for the British Code and Cypher School even before WWII. Once war was declared, Turing took up a full-time role at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire where he worked diligently to decipher the military codes used by Germany and its allies, his primary efforts aimed at cracking the Enigma code.

The Enigma was the German armed forces' enciphering machine used to send messages securely. Polish mathematicians had cracked the original codes but the Germans increased Enigma security by changing the cipher system on a daily basis. Along with fellow code-breaker Gordon Welchman, Turing developed a machine known as the Bombe, which replicated the action of several Enigma machines wired together and significantly reduced the work of the code-breakers. From mid-1940, the team at Bletchley Park was regularly reading German Air Force signals.

It was a different matter in the Battle of the Atlantic, however, a crucial theatre of conflict. Here, given the German Navy's greater cipher discipline, messages relayed back and forth between the Kriegsmarine and German U-boats had flummoxed the code-breakers at Bletchley. The Allies struck gold, however, with the capture of U-110, which provided them with an intact naval Enigma machine. This was soon dispatched to Turing and the other boffins at Bletchley who got to work. Their efforts were further boosted by the fact that the German high command believed the codes used in the naval communication were inviolable, and soon the Allied convoys were perpetually dodging the U-boat wolfpacks.

The Germans' inclusion of a fourth rotor in the Enigma was a setback, and the U-boats once again enjoyed a 'happy time' during 1942 when they terrorised the Atlantic convoys. Turing, however, eventually cracked this problem, too. The battle to break German ciphers was perennial and Turing proved a key asset for the Allies. His work was memorialised in the 2014 film *The Imitation Game*.





Turin's phenomenal Bombe machine

TOR GLAD

Norwegian worked as a double agent in tandem with John Moe

Tor Glad, a Norwegian citizen, came ashore in Scotland with John Moe and turned double agent under the MI5 XX programme. Glad participated in staged sabotage operations and transmitted false radio broadcasts that convinced the Germans that the Allies planned to invade Norway prior to the actual invasion of North Africa in 1942. The Germans were compelled to station more than 300,000 troops in Norway to defend against an invasion that never came. Moe and Glad were nicknamed Mutt and Jeff for their resemblance to popular cartoon characters of the period. British handlers came to doubt Glad's continuing value and eventually interned him in 1943.

ROMAN CZERNIAWSKI

Polish double agent fed false D-Day information to the Germans



Once associated with French double agent Mathilde Carré in the failed Interallie Resistance network, Czerniawski escaped to Britain and was heavily scrutinised by Polish Intelligence. Both MI6 and MI5 questioned him, and the British turned him under the MI5 XX programme. With the code name 'Brutus', Czerniawski passed false information to the Germans; however, his strong anti-Soviet sentiment concerned the British that German authorities had become suspicious. But by the end of 1943, the British deemed Czerniawski safely operational. He then transmitted false information prior to D-Day under Operation Fortitude, helping convince the Germans that the invasion of Europe would take place in the Pas-de-Calais.

JUAN PUJOL GARCÍA

Catalan double agent played a pivotal role in D-Day deceptions

Juan Pujol García, code-named Garbo, offered his services to German intelligence before joining the British and working with MI6 as a double agent. Together with Tommy Harris, he created a network of 27 imaginary sub-agents through whom he provided misinformation to the Germans during Operation Fortitude, which aimed to disguise the location of the D-Day landings. In one key transmission, Pujol deceived the Germans so completely that they kept two armoured divisions and 19 infantry divisions in the Pas-de-Calais in anticipation of an invasion. This gave the Allies time to establish their bridgehead. He was awarded both the Iron Cross and an MBE.

CLAUDE DE BAISSAC

A key player in France's Scientist network

Mauritian Claude de Baissac, the brother of fellow SOE operative Lise de Baissac, parachuted into France on 30 July 1942 with Harry Peulevé and helped form the Scientist network in the Bordeaux area. Among their operations they attacked the local U-boat pens. During the assault phase of Operation Overlord in early June 1944, the head of SOE operations in France sent De Baissac back to the Normandy region to re-found Scientist and he worked on the army's flanks providing tactical intelligence. His bravado is recorded in one episode where he received an SAS captain on the upper storey of a house that had a German HQ on the ground floor.



NANCY GRACE AUGUSTA WAKE

Her life in jeopardy, the Nazis' most wanted agent survived the war


Nancy was given many awards


Nancy was determined to have a role in the war

The most decorated female in Allied service during World War II, Nancy Wake was continually in danger in Nazi-occupied France. Undeterred, she risked her life initially as a courier for the French Resistance. She remained elusive, the Gestapo deeming her its most wanted enemy spy, nicknaming her the 'White Mouse', and placing a bounty of 5 million francs on her head.

Wake's determination to thwart the Nazis grew from first-hand experience. Born in New Zealand, she moved with her family to Australia, ran away from home at 16, and made her way to New York City and London. She worked briefly as a nurse while learning the craft of journalism. During the 1930s she took a job as a European correspondent with Hearst Newspapers, witnessing the brutality of the Nazi rise to power.

With the outbreak of World War II, Nancy joined the French Resistance. When the network she served was compromised, she was arrested but released when the Germans believed a friend's concocted story of the supposed infidelity of her husband, Henri Fiocca. After several attempts, she reached London and volunteered for the SOE. Fiocca chose to remain in France. He fell into the hands of the Gestapo and was tortured to death without revealing Nancy's whereabouts.

On the night of 29 April 1944, Wake parachuted into France and joined the band of Maquis fighters led by Captain Henri Tardivat in the Troncais Forest. She trained Maquis recruits and once rode a bicycle more than 500 kilometres to deliver a top-secret codebook. During one raid she silenced a German sentry, delivering a fatal judo chop with her bare hands.

Wake survived the war, receiving the George Medal, The US Medal of Freedom, the French Croix de Guerre, and other decorations for valour. She died in London in 2011 at age 98.

"SHE ONCE RODE A BICYCLE MORE THAN 500KM TO DELIVER A NOTEBOOK"

MERLIN MINSHALL

Serving with Ian Fleming in Naval Intelligence brought new adventure

Merlin Minshall was an adventurer. After graduating from London University, he set out in 1931 to become the first Englishman to sail across Europe to the Black Sea. An avid auto racer, he won the Italian Foreign Challenge in 1937 where Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini presented the trophy. Minshall later became first to drive an auto with an air-cooled engine across the Sahara.

With the outbreak of war in 1939, Minshall reported for duty with the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve where he served under Ian Fleming for a time. In 1940, he participated in a failed plan to block the Danube River with barges to impede the flow of oil to Germany and led Operation Shamrock, a joint Naval Intelligence-SOE mission monitoring German U-boat traffic along coastal France. In 1941, he assisted the hunt for the German battleship Bismarck while commanding a section at HMS Flowerdown, a Sussex wireless station, and served in the Pacific.

Minshall initially denied that Fleming had modelled James Bond after him but later went on to embrace the idea. Married four times, Minshall died aged 80 in 1987.

JOHN MOE

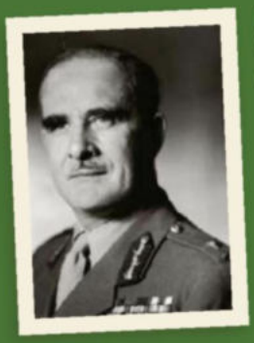
Dual citizen of Britain and Norway fed false information to the Nazis

Along with his companion Tor Glad, John Moe landed at Crovie on Scotland's Moray Firth, on 7 April 1941. The duo had been recruited by the German Abwehr to operate in Britain and commit acts of sabotage; however, they immediately approached local authorities and were interrogated by MI5 and MI6. Both were turned under the MI5 XX programme as double agents, committing staged acts of sabotage against worthless targets with explosives supplied by the Germans. Nicknamed Mutt and Jeff, they fed false information to the Abwehr by radio before the Allied invasion of North Africa, prompting Germany to keep thousands of troops in Scandinavia.


Double agents Moe and Glad helped to divert thousands of Nazis away from the fight

COLIN GUBBINS

The disciplined and dapper Scotsman who headed up the Special Operations Executive



The prime mover in the Special Operations Executive (SOE), this energetic Scotsman served with distinction in the Royal Artillery during WWI before going on to fight in Russia for the White Army and then to Ireland, where he fought in the Anglo-Irish War of 1919-21. His experiences in these two arenas gave him a keen insight into guerrilla warfare and he went on to author a number of training manuals, such as 1939's *Partisan Leader's Handbook*, which outlined the principles of sabotage and guerrilla warfare, for British Military Intelligence.

He worked on establishing the Auxiliary Units, who would fight a resistance war in the UK should the Germans complete a successful invasion, before he was invited to oversee the SOE. He took the codename M (a moniker borrowed by Fleming when he wrote his James Bond novels). Under his guidance, SOE formed separate sections to co-ordinate activities in specific countries, with the greatest concentration focusing on France. The SOE enjoyed many successes and endured many failures, including a disastrous campaign in the Netherlands that cost many agents' lives.

As the head of SOE, Gubbins co-ordinated the activities of resistance movements across the globe and Gubbins consulted with the Foreign Office, the chiefs of staff, representatives of the resistance organisations, governments-in-exile, and other agencies including his counterparts in the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

HENRI DÉRICOURT

The inscrutable Frenchman's history remains a mystery to this day

After escaping to Britain in August 1942, Frenchman Henri Déricourt joined the SOE and was parachuted back into his native land in January of the following year. He worked mainly for the Prosper network and arranged the transportation of over 60 SOE agents including Noor Inayat Khan, Vera Leigh, Yolande Beekman, Eliane Plewman, Diana Rowden, Jack Agazarian, Francis Suttill, Pearl Witherington and Lise de Baissac.

When the Prosper network was compromised, the likes of Agazarian and Suttill believed Déricourt might have been working against them as a double agent. In the aftermath of WWII, evidence emerged that Déricourt was guilty of providing information to the Gestapo that led to the arrest and execution of several agents including Inayat Khan, Agazarian and Suttill, among others. When interviewed for the book *Double Agent*, Déricourt claimed that the SEO had used him as a triple agent. Aware that the Gestapo had compromised the Prosper network, he said, the SEO deliberately sacrificed key agents in a bid to divert Nazi attention from Operation Overlord and the D-Day landings in Normandy in Operation Neptune.

Déricourt was reportedly killed in an air crash over Laos in November 1962. His body was never found, however, and suggestions abound that his death was faked so that he might live a new life under an assumed name.



Déricourt claims agents were sacrificed to protect D-Day

EDDIE MYERS

Engineer who sabotaged the Gorgopotamos viaduct



Lieutenant-Colonel Eddie Myers was the commanding officer on Operation Harling, an SOE mission held in conjunction with Greek Resistance groups, which aimed to destroy the viaduct and thereby hamper Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's supply route to north Africa. The sabotage was a success and proved that guerrillas working in conjunction with Allied officers could achieve spectacular results in occupied Europe. Myers remained on the ground, building his own guerrilla network, whose further successes included the destruction of the Asopos viaduct.

JACK AGAZARIAN

The selfless spy who made the ultimate sacrifice

RAF officer Jack Agazarian more than proved his mettle when he decided to return to France for a second mission in July 1943, even though the Gestapo knew who he was from his time with the Physician network. His bravery was further amplified when he stood in for his commanding officer, Nicholas Bodington, at a meeting that they felt might end up being a trap. It was, and Agazarian was arrested and subsequently killed. His wife also worked for SOE's F Section.

VIOLETTE SZABO

The brave agent who avenged her husband



Born Violette Bushell, Szabo joined the SOE in July 1943 following the death of her husband, Etienne Szabo, at the great tank battle of El Alamein. Her first mission, which she completed, was to check whether one of the Prosper network sub-chains had been compromised. She was then parachuted back into France in early June 1944, just two days after D-Day with the intention of disrupting German communications.

Shortly after landing, when in the company of French Resistance fighter Jacques Dufour and Jean Bariaud, her car ran into a German roadblock and she and Dufour laid down covering fire while the unarmed Bariaud escaped. Szabo and Dufour retreated towards a wood, exchanging fire with pursuing enemy troops. Szabo had an ankle injury and in the chase it gave way, forcing her to a standstill. She continued the firefight in a bid to let Dufour get away. She was captured and taken to the Ravensbrück, a concentration camp for women. She was executed in February 1945.

Her bravery saw her become the second woman to win the George Cross, her citation stating that while she was brutally tortured, she never surrendered any significant information. Her exploits are remembered in the book and the 1958 film, *Carve Her Name With Pride*.

MARIAN REJEWSKI

The Polish mathematician who reconstructed the Enigma cipher machine

Significant early success in solving the cryptologic riddle of the German Enigma cipher machine was accomplished by a trio of Polish mathematicians in the 1930s. Marian Rejewski, Henryk Zygalski, and Jerzy Różycki collaborated in the effort, and Rejewski actually made an Enigma machine in 1932 without previously having seen one.

Rejewski was born in 1905 in Bromberg, at that time part of the German Empire. He attended Poznan University during the 1920s, and while Polish cryptanalysts had worked on Enigma for a time, their success had been limited. In the autumn of 1932, the task was handed to Rejewski.

Rejewski had only a general understanding of how the machine's system of rotors functioned and received some assistance from French sources. Within just a matter of days, he managed to untangle the labyrinth of internal wiring that made the Enigma a revolutionary encoding machine with millions of possible letter combinations. The Poles subsequently went on to pioneer invaluable techniques for cracking Enigma decryptions.

Weeks before the German invasion of Poland that started World War II, the Polish mathematicians met at Pyry, south of Warsaw, with British and French intelligence officers, revealing their successes. For British Intelligence, the progress of the Poles offered a great leap forward, allowing them to begin reading decrypted Enigma messages, dubbed Ultra, within months.

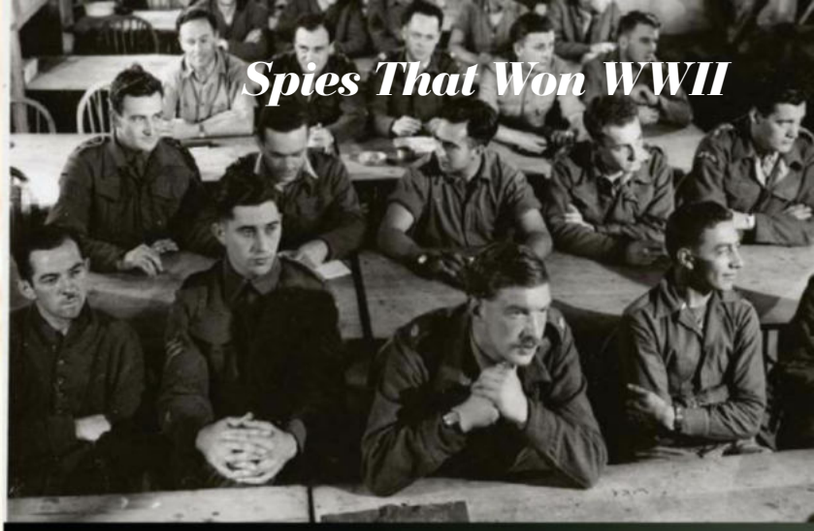
The Poles continued working in France until late 1942. Rejewski and Zygalski escaped to England the following summer and were enlisted in the Polish Army, cracking other German codes.

Meanwhile, British and American cryptanalysts had taken the lead in the decryption of Enigma transmissions. The Poles, who had provided vital assistance, were excluded from further participation. Their role remained obscure for some time. Rejewski died in 1980, aged 78. Twenty years later, he was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, Poland's highest civilian decoration.



The Poles played a vital role in decoding Enigma

"REJEWSKI MADE AN ENIGMA MACHINE"



SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRALS

A step-by-step guide to the training of Special Operations Executive hopefuls

1. INTRODUCTORY COURSE

Those thought suitable for a role in the SOE were sent first on a two- or three-week course, where they would engage in physical fitness exercises, basic map reading and weapons work, though the recruits were not told that they were testing for the SOE. There was also said to be a well-stocked bar to see how potential agents might behave when alcohol was liberally poured.

2. GROUP A TRAINING

Those that passed the initial course were sent for a three- or four-week course in paramilitary techniques up in Scotland, most famously at Arisaig. Here they learned about small arms, as well taking lessons in unarmed combat (developed by former Shanghai police officers Sykes and Fairbairn), sabotage and demolition, intensive map reading and basic infantry tactical training.

3. GROUP B TRAINING

It was likely that the first two courses might wheedle out around 60 per cent of candidates, the remainder passing on to Group B training in the country houses around Beaulieu and the New Forest. Here they learned defensive lessons – about enemy police services and how to respond to their lines of questioning. They were also taught how to live their cover with conviction.

4. GROUP B TESTING

During the Group B work, recruits were also given lessons in intelligence gathering and reporting their findings back to England via elementary coding before they took a practical passing-out test that lasted several days. Recruits were sent off in small groups with a specific mission – sabotage, theft of a Sten gun etc – which might also require them picking up an accomplice along the way.

5. PARACHUTE TRAINING

Once recruits graduated from Beaulieu they were sent for more technical training, including parachuting for those to be dropped overseas. This was taught from a merchant's house near Manchester. Drops were made into the grounds at Tatton Park from Whitley aircraft. The drop suits were developed with pockets for a spade, so the agents could bury the parachute on landing.

6. SPECIALIST TRAINING

There were a number of specialist courses for graduates, like the wireless school at Thame Park. There were courses in safe-breaking and clandestine printing as well as advanced sabotage techniques. Of those who failed the early courses, meanwhile, many were sent to the 'cooler' at Inverlair, where they were encouraged to forget the little they had learned about secret operations.

EINAR SKINNARLAND

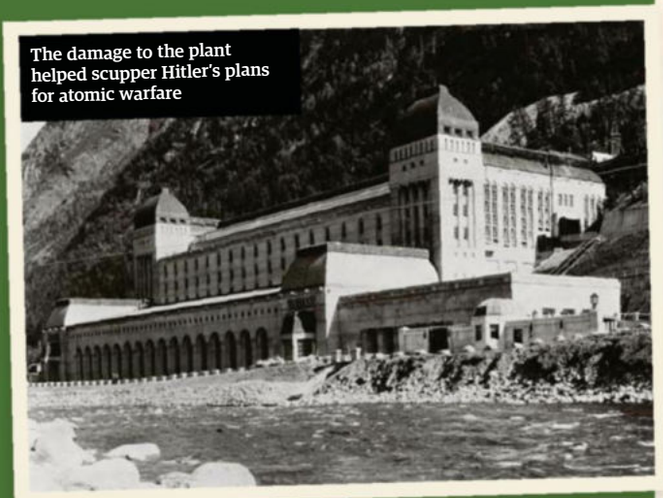
The Norwegian nationalist who helped thwart Hitler's atomic ambitions

When an SOE raiding party captured a Norwegian ship in March 1942, they discovered on board Einar Skinnarland, who was eager to help fight the German invaders in his homeland. He heralded from Rjukan, which was close to Vemok, home to Norsk Hydro, where the Germans were bidding to propel their atomic bomb development with the use of heavy water (deuterium oxide). A mission to destroy the plant passed to the SOE who parachuted Skinnarland back into Norway and there he befriended the chief engineer at the plant, learned plenty of information necessary for a coup de main operation, and relayed this by radio to the SOE.

On the ground, he then received a number of operatives who were to help with the landing of two British gliders carrying commando-engineers set to implement Operation Freshman. Sadly, both gliders crashed in bad weather and the survivors were captured, tortured and executed by the Gestapo. Security at the plant was beefed up.

Undeterred, Skinnarland and the SOE tried again and with Operation Gunnerside on 28/29 February 1943, they achieved their aim, Skinnarland helping commandoes to sneak into the plant and set charges. The saboteurs only met one worker during the operation. He agreed to help, providing he was allowed to retrieve his eyeglasses! The explosion severely damaged the plant and wreaked havoc with Hitler's atomic ambitions. It is said that 3,000 German soldiers were dispatched to comb the area for the commandos, all of whom escaped, with four remaining in the region for further work with the Resistance.

The story was immortalised in the 1948 Franco-Norwegian film *Operation Swallow: The Battle For Heavy Water* and then the 1965 Kirk Douglas film *The Heroes Of Telemark*. Skinnarland continued to maintain radio contact between the local elements of the Norwegian resistance and SOE headquarters in London until the end of the war.



The damage to the plant helped scupper Hitler's plans for atomic warfare



A vial of deuterium oxide, a vital component of the Nazi's atomic bomb ambitions

HENRYK ZYGALSKI

The Polish cryptologist who helped crack Enigma

One of a trio of Polish mathematicians who performed early cryptanalytic work on Enigma encoded German ciphers, Zygalski developed perforated sheets, later known as 'Zygalski sheets,' as keys to a manual method of determining settings of Enigma machine rotors. In 1939, Zygalski participated in a pivotal meeting near Warsaw with representatives of the British and French intelligence communities, revealing the substantial progress the Poles had made in cracking Enigma. Along with fellow Pole Marian Rejewski, Zygalski reached England in the summer of 1943. He joined the Polish Army and worked on other ciphers but was excluded from further involvement in Enigma.



EDDIE CHAPMAN

The criminal turned agent who won the Iron Cross

Eddie Chapman's release from prison in Jersey saw him emerge into an occupied land and he immediately offered his services to the German secret service, the Abwehr. He agreed to sabotage the De Havilland factory but on his return to the UK turned himself in and worked as a double agent, code-named ZigZag. With help from MI5 he faked the bombing of the factory before returning to Germany and may have been the only British citizen to earn an Iron Cross.



KIM PHILBY

The most notorious member of the Cambridge Five

Britain ran an excellent double-cross network but was not immune from the same treatment. Appointed to MI6 in 1940 Philby passed more than 1,000 secret documents to the Soviet Union. Notorious for his actions after World War II, in a perverse way his perfidy helped secure the allied war effort, convincing Stalin that Japan had no designs on the USSR and letting them concentrate their forces on the Eastern Front.



RONALD SETH

A double agent whose fantastic stories baffled friends and foes alike

After teaching in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, Ronald Seth volunteered to join the SOE in a bid to stir up revolt against the Nazis in the Baltic States. He was codenamed Blunderhead and in October 1942, parachuted into Estonia. Nothing more was heard from him until the April of the following year when a file fell into Allied hands detailing the capture and interrogation of a British spy called Ronald Seth who had, apparently, revealed everything about his SOE training and mission. The SOE's signal office was ordered to desist from listening out for any further contact.

Not long after the liberation of Paris, however, a document was passed to the War Office purporting to be from Blunderhead. It outlined a fantastic tale, recording how his initial landing had dropped him amid a group of German soldiers, whom he'd fought off before executing a sabotage campaign while living off the land. He was eventually captured and tortured, he said, and claimed that he agreed to help the Germans against the Russians.

His report revealed how he had worked in Paris and undergone training with the German secret service, Abwehr, although when the enemy lost confidence with him he was sent to a POW camp to serve as an informer. He maintained that all the while he was still serving the SOE. The intrigue was enhanced when another letter appeared a short while later claiming that he was now operating in a POW camp at Limburg under the name of Captain John De Witt.

Finally, in April 1945 as the war was coming to an end, he walked into the British legation in Bern, and said that he was carrying peace proposals from Himmler and should therefore be flown home. MI5 interrogated him at length and were unable to unpick the fact from fiction. Whatever its veracity, Blunderhead's story remains one of the most fantastic ever linked to an SOE agent.

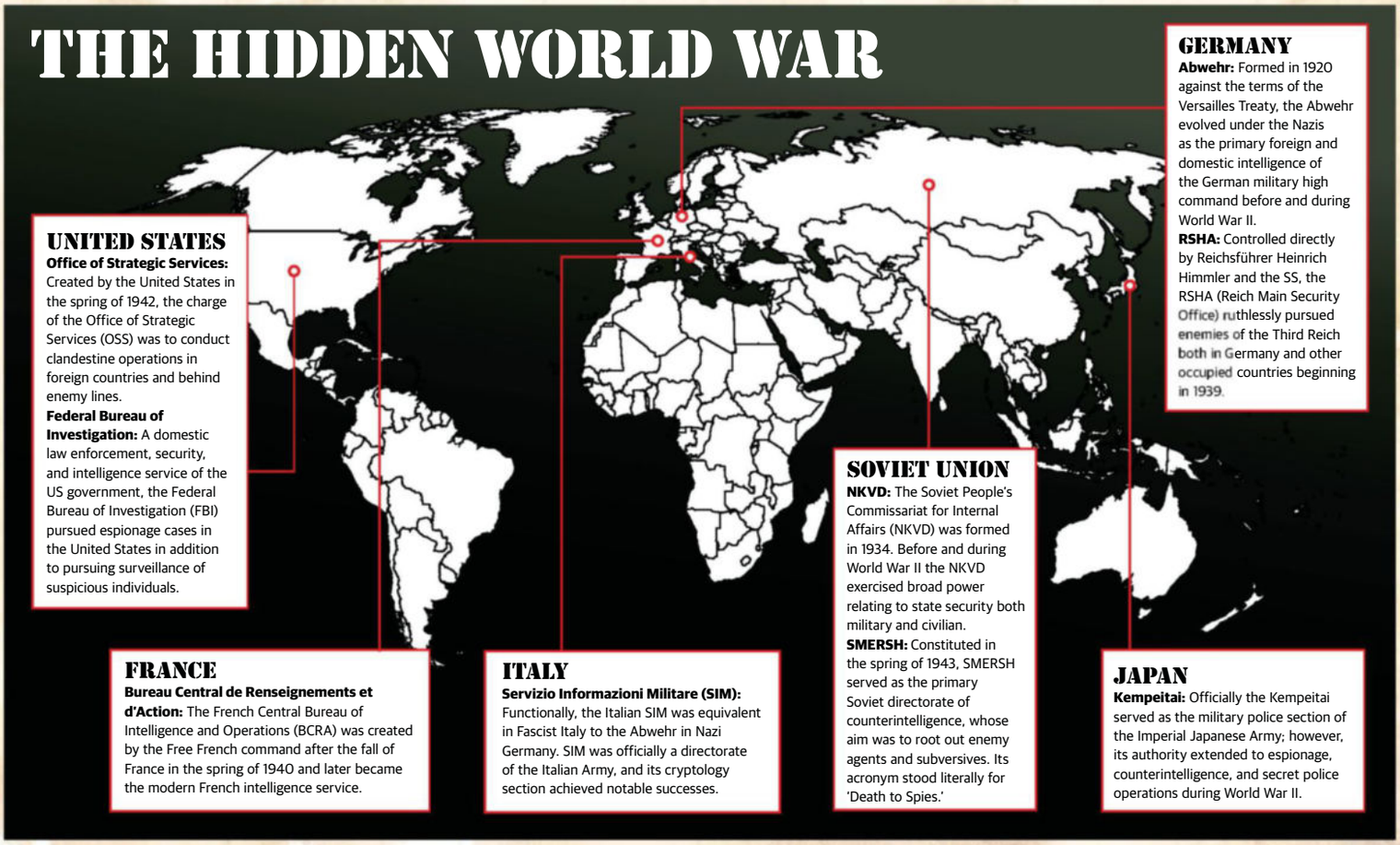


Ethnic Germans in Tallinn cheer the arrival of the Wehrmacht and the retreat of the Red Army

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"HE MAINTAINED... HE WAS STILL SERVING SOE"

THE HIDDEN WORLD WAR



UNITED STATES

Office of Strategic Services: Created by the United States in the spring of 1942, the charge of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was to conduct clandestine operations in foreign countries and behind enemy lines.

Federal Bureau of Investigation: A domestic law enforcement, security, and intelligence service of the US government, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) pursued espionage cases in the United States in addition to pursuing surveillance of suspicious individuals.

GERMANY

Abwehr: Formed in 1920 against the terms of the Versailles Treaty, the Abwehr evolved under the Nazis as the primary foreign and domestic intelligence of the German military high command before and during World War II.

RSHA: Controlled directly by Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler and the SS, the RSHA (Reich Main Security Office) ruthlessly pursued enemies of the Third Reich both in Germany and other occupied countries beginning in 1939.

SOVIET UNION

NKVD: The Soviet People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD) was formed in 1934. Before and during World War II the NKVD exercised broad power relating to state security both military and civilian.

SMERSH: Constituted in the spring of 1943, SMERSH served as the primary Soviet directorate of counterintelligence, whose aim was to root out enemy agents and subversives. Its acronym stood literally for 'Death to Spies.'

FRANCE

Bureau Central de Renseignements et d'Action: The French Central Bureau of Intelligence and Operations (BCRA) was created by the Free French command after the fall of France in the spring of 1940 and later became the modern French intelligence service.

ITALY

Servizio Informazioni Militare (SIM): Functionally, the Italian SIM was equivalent in Fascist Italy to the Abwehr in Nazi Germany. SIM was officially a directorate of the Italian Army, and its cryptology section achieved notable successes.

JAPAN

Kempeitai: Officially the Kempeitai served as the military police section of the Imperial Japanese Army; however, its authority extended to espionage, counterintelligence, and secret police operations during World War II.

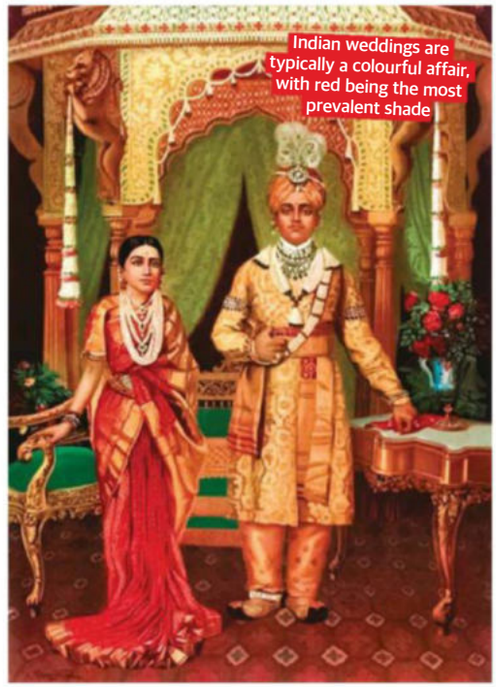
Through History

WEDDING DRESSES

From intricate gowns to elaborate headpieces, take a look at the traditional wedding attire worn by brides from around the world and through the centuries

RED SARI 2800 BCE

For Indian weddings, it is typical for the bride, and often the groom too, to wear red. This is because in many eastern cultures the colour red symbolises auspiciousness and good luck. It is also commonly associated with Durga, one of the most revered goddesses in the Hindu faith, and represents her power and strength. Depending on the region, the bride's outfit will traditionally consist of a red sari, a piece of fabric that is draped across the body, or a lehenga, a long skirt.



Indian weddings are typically a colourful affair, with red being the most prevalent shade

ROMAN VEIL 800 BCE

The wedding veil tradition is believed to date back to ancient Rome, when brides would wear a flame-coloured veil called a flammeum. Covering them from head to toe, this piece of fabric was designed to ward off evil spirits, protecting the bride once she had left the safety of her family home. The dress itself was a simple white tunic tied around the waist with a woolen belt. The bride's mother would tie it using a Nodus Herculaneus knot, intended to symbolise the virility of Hercules, and it could only be untied by her new husband. It is thought that this is where the phrase 'tying the knot' originates.

Krugu Amoaya and Watah Kraban
UNKNOWN, GHANAIAN

According to Ashanti legend, kente cloth was created when the two farmers came across the web of Ananse, a spider popular in Ghanaian mythology, while hunting. They then rushed home to recreate it out of fibers from the raffia tree and presented their creation to the king.



The Roman wedding dress was designed to help protect the bride from evil spirits



The oldest known huipil dates back to the 18th century, but depictions appeared much earlier

HUIPIL PRE-1500

The huipil is a traditional garment worn by the indigenous women of Mexico and other regions of Central America. The loose-fitting cap-sleeved tunic is made from two or three rectangles of fabric woven on a backstrap loom and stitched together with ribbons. Simple versions are worn every day, but for ceremonial occasions such as weddings, intricate embroidery is added. Each design typically holds sacred meaning for the wearer, as it defines their home town, social status and wealth. The exact origin of the garment is unclear, as Mesomerican women have been wearing it since long before the Spanish arrived in the region.



Green was a popular wedding dress colour in medieval times as it represented fertility

MEDIEVAL ROBES 1400

In medieval times, a marriage was more of a union between two families than two people, and so a bride was encouraged to dress in a way that would represent her family in the best light. For the upper classes, expensive fabrics, rich colours, flowing sleeves and long trains helped show off the bride's wealth and social status, while lower class women simply wore the best dress they had available. This was typically their church outfit, which could be of any colour or design.

Queen Victoria
1819-1901, BRITISH

Victoria's white silk satin and lace gown bucked the trend in 1840, but soon became a western custom. She also broke with royal tradition by wearing an orange blossom wreath instead of a crown, and recycling the lace from her dress several times, including for her Diamond Jubilee.

KENTE CLOTH 1600

At Ghanaian weddings, it is traditional for the bride and groom to both wear garments made from kente cloth. This colourful patterned fabric originated with the Ewe and Ashanti people of Ghana in the 17th century, and it soon became the nation's royal cloth, reserved for important events. It is woven in narrow strips, with each strip containing a series of bands that feature mutli-coloured geometric patterns. Each pattern represents a historical event, person or proverb, and the colours also have symbolic meanings.



According to legend, the idea for kente cloth was inspired by an intricate spider web



The wedding dress of Sophia Magdalena of Denmark illustrates the fashion for extremely wide panniers

Elizabeth Emanuel
1953-, BRITISH
Elizabeth, along with her brother David Emanuel, designed the iconic wedding dress of Princess Diana for her wedding in 1981. The puffy creation was made from ivory silk embellished with pearls, sequins and antique lace, and had a 7.6-metre-long train — still the longest in royal wedding history.

UCHIKAKE 1600

The traditional wedding garment worn by women in Japan is the uchikake, a highly formal kimono worn only by brides or at stage performances. It is intended to be worn as a coat over the top of another kimono and features a heavily padded hem that trails along the floor. Its exact origins are unclear, but it is likely to have been developed during the Edo period when kimonos as outerwear began to evolve. Until the 20th century, such exquisite garments were reserved for the noble classes, but when Japan's sumptuary laws were repealed, wealthy commoners adopted them as wedding attire.



Uchikake are typically white or red and painted or embroidered with beautiful designs



Each saukele is unique and may be passed down through the generations

SAUKELE 1800

In addition to a gown made from expensive and typically red-coloured fabrics, Kazakh brides also wear a saukele on their head. These intricate cone-shaped headdresses can be up to 70 centimetres tall and usually take a whole year to make. They are decorated with pearls, coral, silver coins, fur and semiprecious stones and feature long suspension brackets called zhaktau on either side, which frame the face and reach down to the waist. The saukele is worn throughout the ceremony and then on major holidays for a year afterwards.

SOMETHING BLUE 1700

The tradition for brides to dress their best continued into the 18th century in Europe, but fashions were evolving. For nobility, wide panniers - wire hoops that hung on each hip underneath the dress - came into style, and the wider they were the better. For lower class brides, outfits were a little more practical, as they would typically be worn again and again. Darker colours were preferred, as they didn't show up so much dirt, but each shade held a specific meaning. For example, blue became popular as it represented purity, and was featured in the 19th century 'something old' rhyme as a sign of good luck.

BUNAD 1800

Each bunad, meaning 'clothing', must be officially classified by the National Bunad Council

The bunad is a traditional Norwegian costume worn on special occasions by both men and women. It is a fairly recent addition to Norwegian culture, introduced during the country's national romanticism movement in the 19th century and inspired by traditional folk attire. A woman's bunad comprises a woolen dress worn over a linen or cotton shirt, with a shawl and apron made of wool or silk. The bride's outfit will be complimented with a gold crown, headdress or elaborate jewelry worn on the head, and she may also wear a veil if it has been designed into the traditional costume.



WHITE WEDDING 1840

Although wearing a white wedding dress was nothing new, it became much more popular after Queen Victoria opted for a white lace gown when she married Prince Albert. White symbolised wealth, and those that could afford to quickly began emulating the royal bride look. A decade later, one of the first women's magazines in America, *Godey's Lady's Book*, declared that white was "the most fitting hue" for a bride, as it was "an emblem of the purity and innocence of girlhood, and the unsullied heart she now yields to the chosen one."



Queen Victoria started the trend for white wedding dresses in western culture

©Alamy

Born to be wild

THE ROCK REVOLUTION

The 1960s was a seismic decade of political and social upheaval, with a soundtrack that echoed the changing times

Written by Rob Hughes

The crowning moment of Country Joe McDonald's career wasn't exactly planned. Standing before nearly half a million people at Woodstock in the early afternoon of 16 August 1969, he'd already played to a largely underwhelming response. A quick word with his tour manager had resulted in him returning to the stage for one final tune, before the arrival of the next act, Santana.

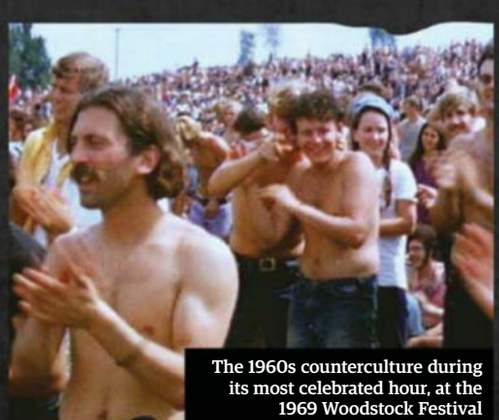
McDonald began strumming the chords to 'I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-To-Die Rag', the political anthem he'd recorded with his band, Country Joe & The Fish. A bitingly sarcastic critique of US policy in Vietnam, in particular the escalating numbers of young conscripts, the song's power lay in both the immediacy of its message and its singalong verses. The Woodstock masses shook themselves from their slumber and began joining in: "And it's one, two, three, what are we fighting for? / Don't ask me I don't give a damn / Next stop is Vietnam / And it's five, six, seven, open up the pearly gates / Well there ain't no time to wonder why / Whoopie! We're all gonna die."

The crowd became more animated and rose to their feet – yelling, clapping and roaring approval – as McDonald led them to a feverish finale. By the time he'd exited the stage, acoustic guitar held aloft in salute, they were screaming for more. It's a scene immortalised in Michael Wadleigh's Oscar-winning *Woodstock* documentary, released the following year, and one that came to embody the disaffection and rage that pumped the heart of the American counterculture.

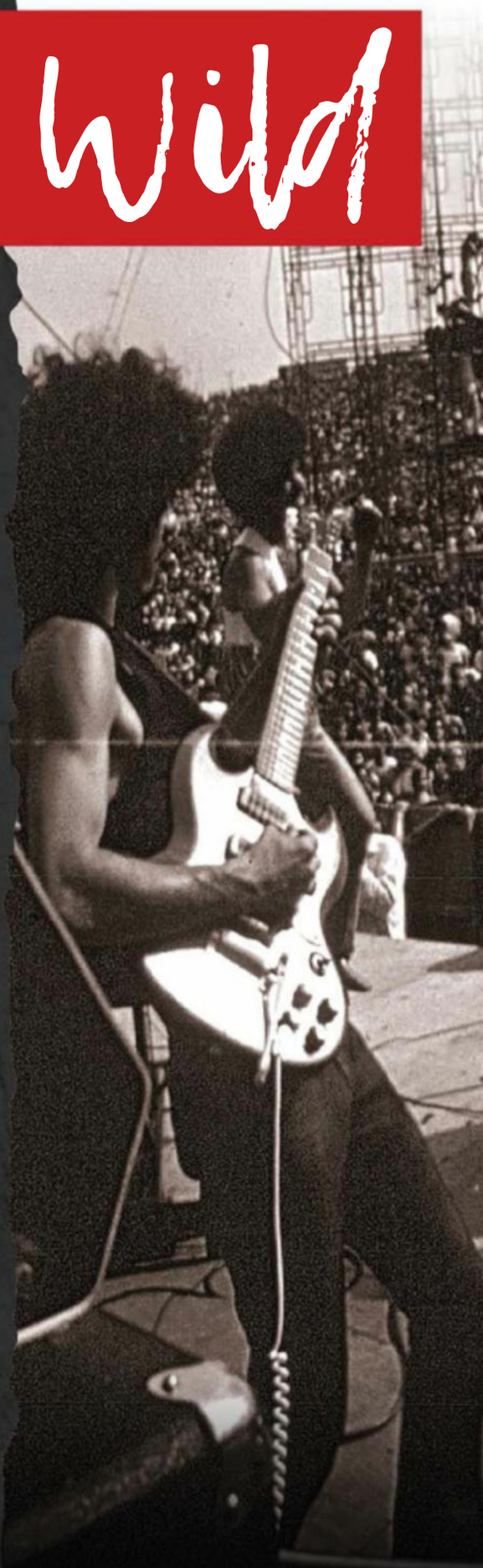
Woodstock also served to bookend a tumultuous decade of social and political unrest. It was an era of protest that had begun at the lunch counters of North Carolina and peaked in 600 acres of farmland in upstate New York. A period of accelerated change that had brought with it racial tensions, riots, student revolts and assassinations. All of this came with an apposite soundtrack, a rush of insurgent music – from folk to rock 'n' roll to psychedelia – that reflected the seismic changes of the times. Moreover, in its emergence as a weapon of cultural revolution, it sought to shape them.

Protest music was hardly a new concept in the 1960s. Against a backdrop of the nuclear threat, McCarthyism, the Cold War and the leftist progressive movement, the post-war years had seen a marked increase in the number of songs that addressed social and political issues. Woody Guthrie, Josh White, Harry Belafonte and The Weavers (featuring the outspoken Pete Seeger) had been at the vanguard in the United States, while a small cadre of voices – chief among them folk singer Ewan MacColl – had aligned themselves to Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in Britain.

> "ALL OF THIS CAME WITH AN APPOSITE SOUNDTRACK"



The 1960s counterculture during its most celebrated hour, at the 1969 Woodstock Festival





Woodstock saw a crowd of over 400,000 decent on upstate New York in the summer of '69

Gibson SG

Dubbed the "fastest neck in the world" when it appeared in 1963, the SG became synonymous with a number of famous names like Eric Clapton. The guitarist's model, customised by psychedelic collective The Fool, was used during his years with power trio, Cream.



John Lennon and Yoko Ono, with Timothy Leary in the foreground, record 'Give Peace A Chance' in their Montreal hotel room, 1st June 1969

But the rise of the Civil Rights Movement, allied to matters surrounding voter registration rights, social equality, the nuclear arms race and the onset of the Vietnam War, resulted in an outpouring of protest in 1960s America that was unprecedented.

The decade was barely a month old before the ruptures began. In February 1960, inspired by Martin Luther King Jr's policy of non-violent protest, four black college students staged a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. Word spread fast, fanned by local news reports, and by the fourth day, there were 300 people. Students across the state organised similar protests, soon followed by other Southern cities in Tennessee, Mississippi and Virginia.

As the Civil Rights Movement gathered momentum over the next few years, so too did the songs that accompanied it. Pete Seeger's 'If I Had A Hammer' hit a popular nerve when Peter, Paul And Mary took it into the Billboard top ten in 1962. Twelve months later, the folk trio's cover of 'Blowin' In The Wind' sold 300,000 copies in its first week and became a huge international hit. Its author, 22-year-old singer Bob Dylan, was quickly gaining a reputation as a leading voice of protest in the cause of civil liberties.

His own version of the song appeared on *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*, released in 1963, which also housed another key composition: 'Masters Of War'. This track was a fierce satire on the rise of what ex-President Eisenhower had called "the military-industrial complex". With its references to "death planes", "big bombs" and "young people's blood" flowing into mud, the song was a strong and defining statement on the ever-growing divisions between the American people and those in power.

That August, Dylan and his female counterpart, the equally vociferous Joan Baez, were among those who performed at the March On Washington that took place at the Lincoln Memorial. Over 250,000 people were in attendance as Martin Luther King Jr, highlighting the lack of civil and economic freedoms available to America's black population amid a climate of boiling racial tension, delivered his historic "I Have A Dream" speech. Others who sang that day included gospel great Mahalia Jackson, Peter, Paul And Mary and black folkstress, Odetta. Baez led the crowd through Odetta's poignant 'Oh Freedom', as well as the old gospel song that was swiftly adopted as the unofficial anthem of the protest movement, 'We Shall Overcome'.

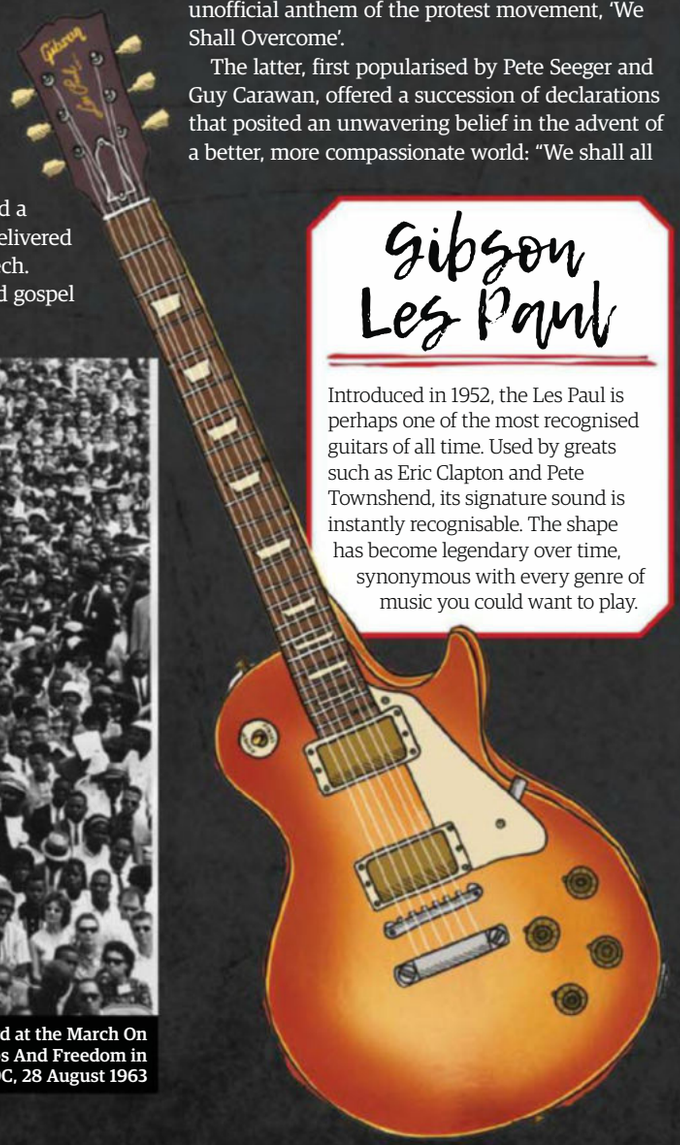
The latter, first popularised by Pete Seeger and Guy Carawan, offered a succession of declarations that posited an unwavering belief in the advent of a better, more compassionate world: "We shall all



The crowd at the March On Washington For Jobs And Freedom in Washington, DC, 28 August 1963

Gibson Les Paul

Introduced in 1952, the Les Paul is perhaps one of the most recognised guitars of all time. Used by greats such as Eric Clapton and Pete Townshend, its signature sound is instantly recognisable. The shape has become legendary over time, synonymous with every genre of music you could want to play.



be free, some day." More than just a song, it was a rallying cry around which all disaffected citizens could unite. Within a year, JFK's Presidential successor, Lyndon Johnson, would pass the Civil Rights Act. The bill outlawed all discrimination – be it racial, religious or gender-based – and banned state segregation.

1964 also saw the publication of Martin Luther King Jr's book about the struggles, *Why We Can't Wait*. In it, he stressed the pivotal role that the freedom songs – which he called "the soul of the movement" – had played in the drive for equality. "We sing the freedom songs today for the same reason the slaves sang them," he explained, "because we too are in bondage and the songs add hope to our determination that 'We shall overcome, Black and white together, We shall overcome someday.'"

"AS THE CONFLICT INTENSIFIED, SO DID THE PROTEST SONGS"

That day was still some way off, though – the law was one thing, but millions of African-Americans were still dealing with everyday racism and inferior living conditions. Some black leaders began to challenge King's insistence on non-violent strategies as a means of protest. This new militant ideology would find greater traction later in the decade, when, appallingly, King was murdered by a white segregationist in Memphis.

In the immediate aftermath of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, however, another matter had risen to the top of the political agenda. A skirmish in the Gulf of Tonkin, just off the coast of Vietnam, had led to the United States stepping up its operations in the country from a mere military presence to open war. By early the following year, there were 16,500 American troops deployed in the country, with President Johnson giving the green light to 'Rolling Thunder', a concentrated bombing campaign against the North Vietnamese that would go on until November 1968. As the conflict intensified, so did the protest songs.

The university campus at Berkeley in California was the seat of American activism by the middle of the decade. The son of Communist Party parents from Washington, DC, ex-US Navy man Country Joe McDonald had moved there in 1965. There he fell in with a bunch of fellow radicals, founded a counterculture magazine – *Rag Baby* – and composed 'I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-To-Die Rag'.

Over on the East Coast, meanwhile, folkie Phil Ochs had become a prominent activist figure with songs like 'I Ain't Marching Anymore', 'Draft Dodger Rag' and the drolly caustic, 'Love Me, I'm A Liberal'. New York neighbour Tom Paxton was equally incensed, pouring his rage into 'Lyndon Johnson Told The Nation' and the poignant 'My Son John', about a returning soldier shattered by his experience.



Fender Stratocaster

The Fender Stratocaster arguably formed the image of rock 'n' roll and has carried this precedent to the modern day. A timeless classic, it's been played by many musicians like Jeff Beck, Jimi Hendrix and George Harrison. Its versatile sound lends itself to all sorts of styles, from rock and metal to jazz, blues and country.

EYEWITNESS Q&A

Country Joe McDonald on politics, protest and the Woodstock generation

Can you describe what the political scene at Berkeley in California was like when you arrived in the summer of 1965?

The university had just had its Free Speech Movement happen, but I don't think I knew anything about that. I had been with people in Los Angeles State College who were involved in protesting the Civil Rights Movement and making folk music, so I had some contact with like-minded people there. I'd grown up with that kind of thinking, but it was the first time in my life that I'd had such close contact with other progressive-minded people like that.

Could you detect a palpable change of opinion and attitude in the States as you entered the second half of the 1960s?

This is hard to answer, because I didn't have the luxury of pausing, looking around and thinking about what was happening at the time – that only happened when it was all over. But all the demonstrations and riots made it obvious that things were not good and, for a certain age group, the possibility of being drafted and sent to Vietnam was a very harsh reality. It became more and more commonplace to think that we would go, fight and die there.

Can you describe the experience of playing at Woodstock in 1969 and bringing the crowd to their feet with 'I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-To-Die Rag'?

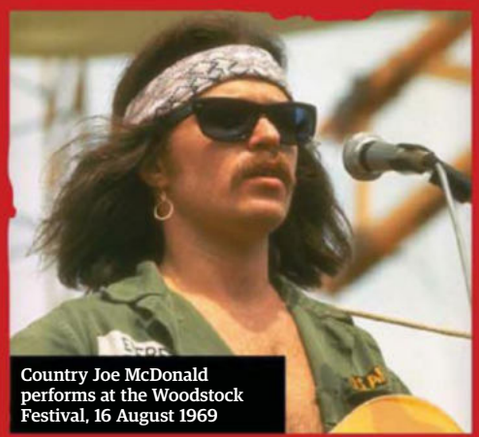
All of those open-air events, like the Human Be-In in San Francisco [1967], had the feeling of a picnic: relaxed and fun. This one seemed like a really *big* picnic. Of course, the crowd was sympathetic. We were, after all, the new hippie counterculture, soon to be called the Woodstock Generation. When it came to the politics of my Vietnam song, which I'd written in 1965, it wasn't possible from the stage to really see the crowd's response. It was only later, when I saw my part in the movie, that I realised how much they'd gotten into it. There were very few overtly political moments at Woodstock, and I was one of those.

How come 'Fixin-To-Die' wasn't included on Country Joe & The Fish's first album, 1967's *Electric Music For The Mind And Body*?

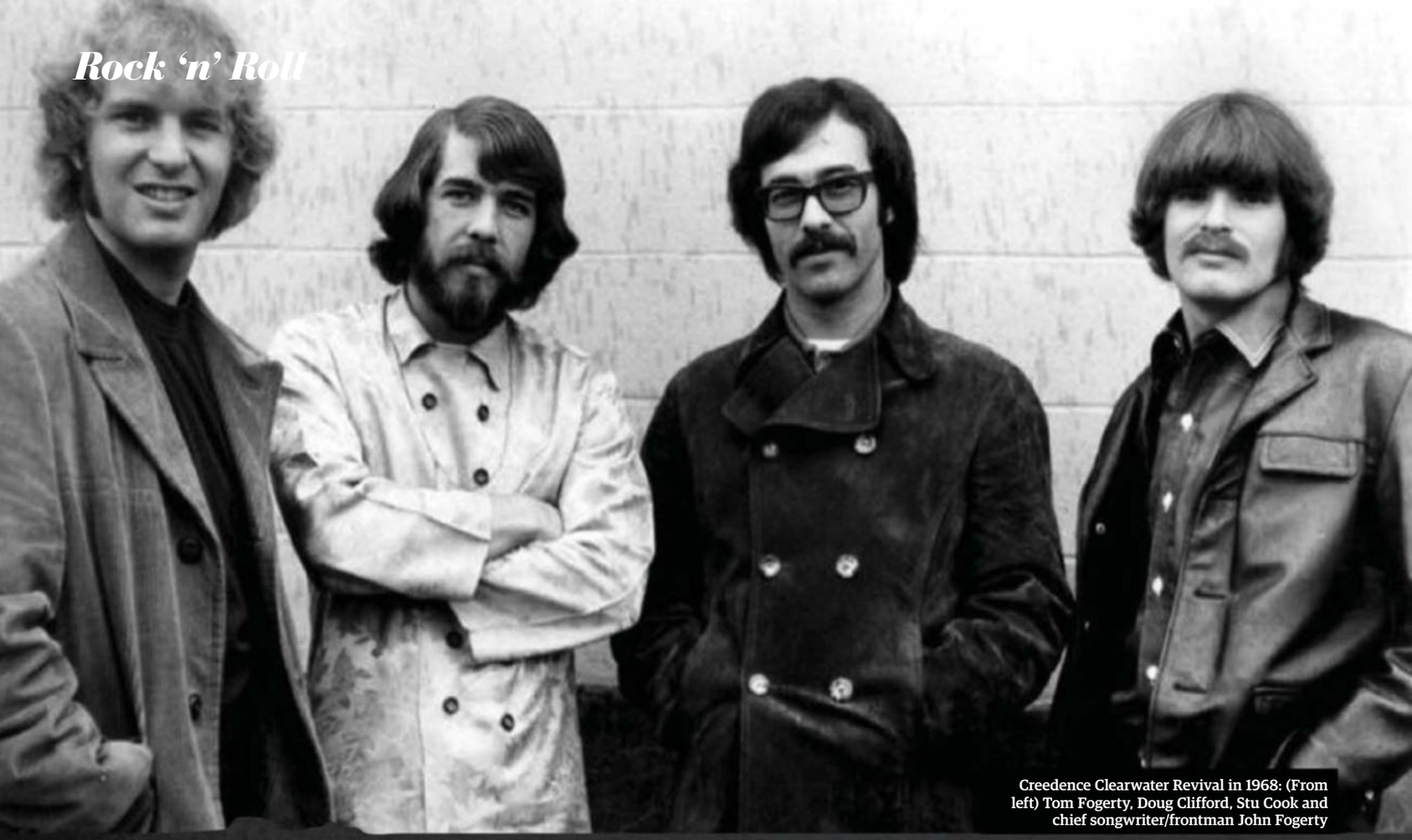
I didn't have any contact with Vanguard as far as the content of songs on albums. The rumour over the years is that they didn't want the song on the first album because they thought it was too... something. I don't know for sure if that's true. It might have just been the producer Sam Charters' decision.

How did the countercultural upheavals of the 1960s affect your life from then on?

It turned me into 'Country Joe McDonald' and allowed me to have a career that paid the bills and was very rewarding in many, many ways. For me of course the lesson was – and I knew it before because of my family – try not to get caught up in history and let it ruin your life.



Country Joe McDonald performs at the Woodstock Festival, 16 August 1969



Creedence Clearwater Revival in 1968: (From left) Tom Fogerty, Doug Clifford, Stu Cook and chief songwriter/frontman John Fogerty



Psychedelic rockers Country Joe And The Fish (with Joe McDonald, far right), May 1967

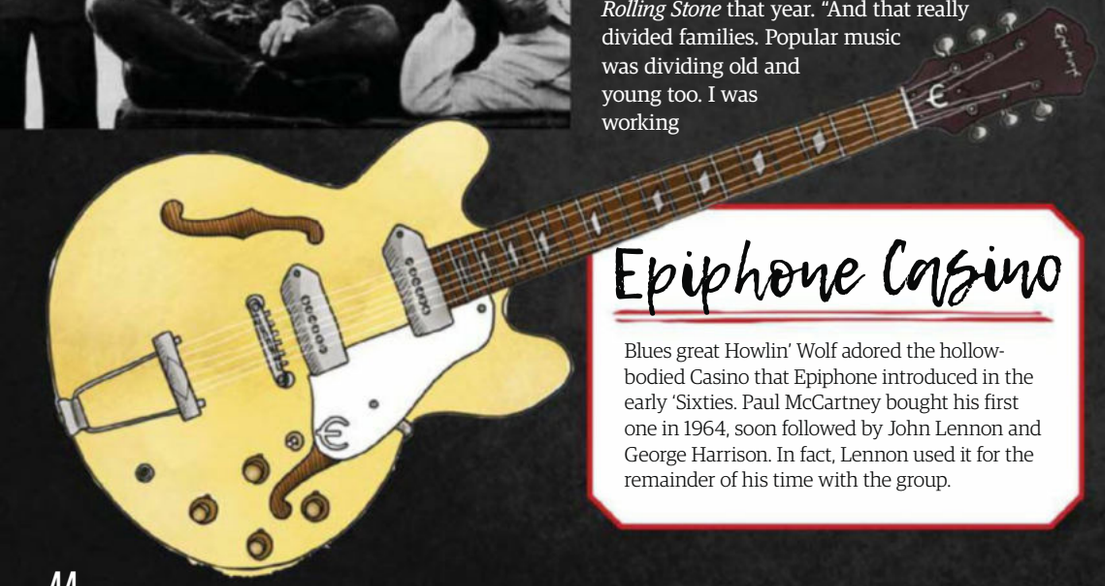
The main voices of dissent had so far belonged to the folk world. By contrast, pop music was still catching up. This all changed when Barry McGuire took P.F. Sloan's 'Eve Of Destruction' – sample lyric: "You're old enough to kill but not for votin' / You don't believe in war but what's that gun you're totin'?" – to the top of the US charts in September 1965, knocking The Beatles' 'Help!' from its perch.

The next few years saw a rapid expansion of the counterculture. As the factional lines became ever more indelible by 1967's Summer of Love, rock 'n' roll adapted to suit. "President Johnson had this continuing build-up of troops and younger people like myself, who could possibly get drafted, were going against it," recalls US author and journalist, Michael Lydon, who helped set up *Rolling Stone* that year. "And that really divided families. Popular music was dividing old and young too. I was working for *Newsweek* in San Francisco, right when people were starting to notice the whole hippie thing. I was at the Human Be-In, where you could sense you were part of something bigger. Then, in June '67, there was the Monterey Pop Festival, which was a big step upward in the numbers of people and the prestige of the bands involved: The Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane, Jimi Hendrix, The Who. It was all peace, love and brotherhood."

In contrast to this communal feeling of positivity, things had turned ugly by 1968. Riots, protests and strikes burst out across the United States amid the continuing fight for civil rights, the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr and Bobby Kennedy and the ongoing carnage in Vietnam. In Europe, too, there were bloody student protests against political repression.

As political temperatures soared, so did the levels of vitriol in the songs. The Doors weighed in with 'The Unknown Soldier', alongside the likes of Jefferson Airplane ('Volunteers'), Cream ('Take It Back'), Janis Ian ('Society's Child'), James Brown ('Say It Loud – I'm Black And I'm Proud'), the MC5 ('Motor City Is Burning') and Creedence Clearwater Revival, who offered up the stinging 'Fortunate Son'. The latter, ostensibly an anti-war song, acted as a wider commentary on elitism and entitlement. "It ain't me, it ain't me," howled frontman John Fogerty, "I ain't no fortunate one."

A similar, albeit meandering, sentiment was expressed by Arlo Guthrie, son of Woody, in his epic talking-blues satire, 'Alice's Restaurant Massacree'. The song contained comic asides, references to petty crime, the hippie community and the insanity of the draft process. In its own



Epiphone Casino

Blues great Howlin' Wolf adored the hollow-bodied Casino that Epiphone introduced in the early 'Sixties. Paul McCartney bought his first one in 1964, soon followed by John Lennon and George Harrison. In fact, Lennon used it for the remainder of his time with the group.

curious way, it perfectly captured the cultural shifts of the past few years. "At the same time the folk boom was happening, the civil rights movement was happening, the anti-war movement was happening, the ban the bomb movement was happening, the environmental movement was happening," Guthrie explained later. "There was suddenly a generation ready to change the course of history."

The decade of protest reached a peak in the summer of 1969. That June, holed up in Montreal's Queen Elizabeth Hotel, John Lennon and Yoko Ono staged their second Bed-In for Peace. Joined by the Canadian chapter of the Radha Krishna Temple and an assemblage of famous friends – including Allen Ginsberg and Timothy Leary – the couple instigated a simple two-chord tune whose chorus provided the simplest of messages: "All we are saying / Is give peace a chance". A worldwide hit, the song gained further importance months later when it was sung by over half a million demonstrators at the Vietnam Moratorium Day in Washington, DC.

"DIVERGENT STRANDS OF THE 1960S PROTEST CAME TOGETHER"

But it was at the Woodstock Festival that the divergent strands of 1960s protest came together, from Richie Havens' rendition of 'Freedom' to Country Joe McDonald, Joan Baez and CSNY and on through to the closing act, Jimi Hendrix. The guitarist's savage deconstruction of that most sacred of US institutions – the national anthem, 'The Star-Spangled Banner' – was emblematic of an alternative society searching for new meaning under the old flag.

"The 'Sixties was an intense conversation," concludes Michael Lydon. "People were really talking to each other, trying to discover new ways of living and interacting. There was a lot of serious thought, led in many ways by The Beatles, the Stones and Dylan, who were coming up with very powerful, challenging statements. Millions of people, including myself, took Dylan's lyric 'He not busy being born is busy dying' [from 'It's Alright Ma, (I'm Only Bleeding)'] as a personal challenge. It was a case of: I hear what you're saying. I want to do something other than work for a corporation. I want to find something new."



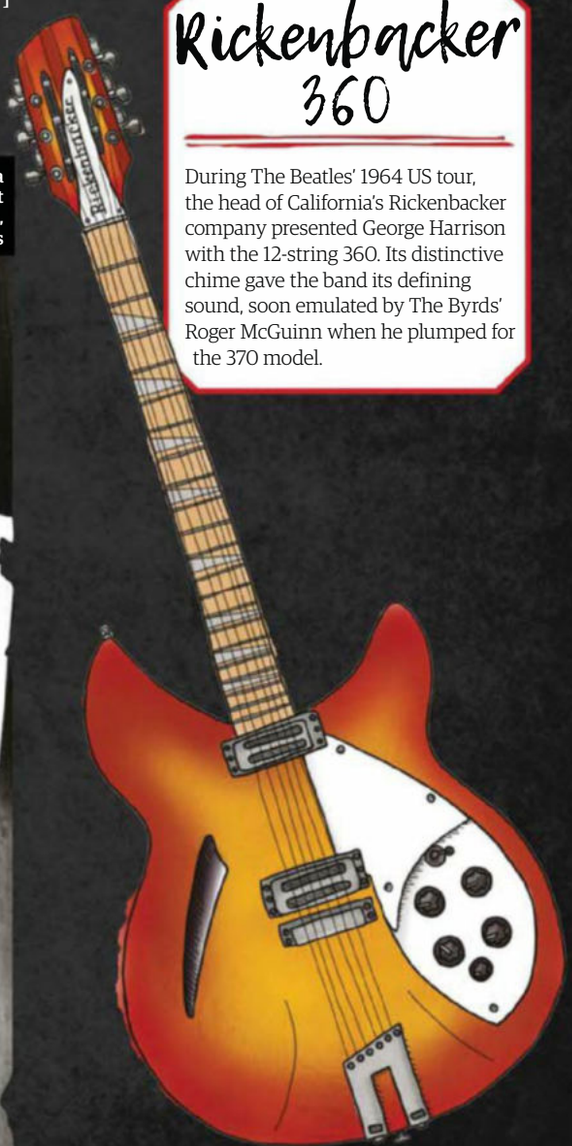
Jimi Hendrix served in the US army but was discharged before the Vietnam war began



Demonstrators outside a schoolboard office protest against segregation, St Louis, Missouri, early 1960s

Rickenbacker 360

During The Beatles' 1964 US tour, the head of California's Rickenbacker company presented George Harrison with the 12-string 360. Its distinctive chime gave the band its defining sound, soon emulated by The Byrds' Roger McGuinn when he plumped for the 370 model.



© Getty Images, Shutterstock/Rex

Voices of the generation

Eve Of Destruction

"The pounding of the drums, the pride and disgrace
You can bury your dead but don't leave a trace
Hate your next door neighbor but don't forget to say grace"

-Barry McGuire

Fortunate Son

"SOME FOLKS ARE BORN, MADE TO WAVE THE FLAG
THEY'RE RED, WHITE AND BLUE
AND WHEN THE BAND PLAYS 'HAIL TO THE CHIEF'
THEY POINT THE CANNON AT YOU, LORD"

-Creedence Clearwater Revival

WE SHALL OVERCOME

"Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We shall overcome, some day
We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand, some day"

-PETE SEEGER

Give Peace A Chance

"Let me tell you now
Ev'rybody's talking about
Revolution, evolution, masturbation
Flagellation, regulation, integrations
Meditations, United Nations
Congratulations"

-Plastic Ono Band

Masters Of War

"YOU FASTEN THE TRIGGERS
FOR THE OTHERS TO FIRE
THEN YOU SET BACK AND WATCH
WHEN THE DEATH COUNT GETS HIGHER"

-Bob Dylan

OH FREEDOM

"Oh freedom, oh freedom, oh freedom over me!
And before I'd be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free"

-ODETTA

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Yasuko Fujino, **In the Garden** (detail)
Silk, metal thread, mohair, 250 x 410cm © Yasuko Fujino

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Time Traveller's Handbook

INDEPENDENT TIBET

Tibet, early 1900s

The history of Tibet and the true lives of those who live there is among the most hotly contested and debated issues in modern history. For some, this mysterious land in the Himalayas is an escape from the world outside – untouched by modern influences, the people there live a simple and happy life. But others believe it is far more sinister, a land of control, serfdom and slavery, where brutal medieval systems reign supreme and the poor are abused by the few rich.

If you want to survive in this controversial period, you'll need to have your wits about you. What we do know is that Tibetans are suspicious of strangers, unified by Buddhism and operate their own unique culture. For thousands of years, the people have lived with minimal outside influence in the high plateau 4,572 metres above sea level, but now more and more foreign eyes are turning on Tibet, especially their overbearing neighbour China, as it transitions from an empire to a republic.



FIG.01

WHERE TO STAY

Tibet has been criticised for its strict social hierarchy, which some call 'feudal'. The region is divided into estates owned by nobles, while peasants, sometimes called 'serfs', are bound to the land where they work their own plots. However, the biggest owner of land is without a doubt the monasteries. The huge amount of land owned by the monks has helped them grow incredibly wealthy and powerful. Although many monks are rather conservative, and some sources would argue controlling and backward, the monasteries would be by far the most comfortable place to stay and will allow you access to some powerful figures.

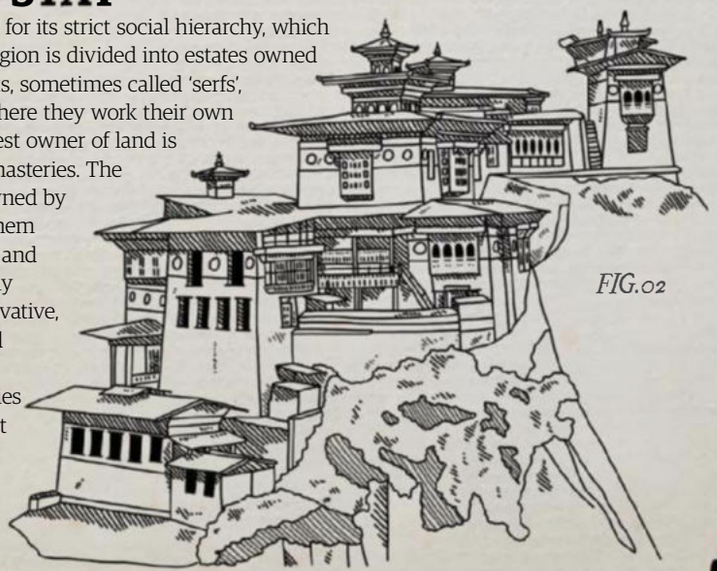


FIG.02

Dos & don'ts

✓ **Make a shrine.** From rich nobles to poor serfs, every Tibetan has a shrine in their home. Nomads even set up shrines in their tents.

✓ **Be prepared for all weather.** Hemmed in between the Himalayas and the Kunlun mountains, the terrain is inhospitable and there is a very harsh climate, with dramatic swings in temperature.

✓ **Befriend peasants.** Not only are the Dalai Lamas chosen from the sons of peasant families, but even the poor sons of nomads are able to use the monastic system to rise to power.

✓ **Proclaim Tibet's independence from China.** This is a hotly contested subject, and claiming otherwise could end violently.

✗ **Expect a good education.** The majority of the population is illiterate and believe the world is flat. There are few Tibetan books and monasteries are the main source of education.

✗ **Fall ill.** Tibetan medicine is well behind other countries, with herbs mainly used for medicines. Surgery is also banned in traditional Tibetan medicine after a failed heart operation on the queen of Tibet in the 8th century.

✗ **Bring in too many foreign influences.** The majority of the Tibetan population are distrustful and hostile to foreigners, and very few have been able to find residence in the region.

✗ **Commit a crime.** Capital punishment may be outlawed, but whippings and even mutilation, such as eye gouging and cutting off ears, are used as punishment against lawbreakers.

WHO TO BEFRIEND

The 13th Dalai Lama

In a region as connected to its religion as Tibet, the Dalai Lama is a prominent, central, unifying figure. Although he is a monk, he and his regents serve as the head of the Tibetan government, making him the most powerful man in the country. Thubten Gyatso, the 13th Dalai Lama, was born to peasants and recognised as the reincarnation in 1877. Although he has spent stretches of his reign in exile, he is keen to reform and improve the country by outlawing capital punishment and creating postage stamps and bank notes for the first time.



FIG.03

Extra tip: Gyatso is also the first Dalai Lama to really recognise the benefits of foreign relations, particularly with Russia and, to a lesser degree, Britain. He also sent students to England to study and welcomed a host of travellers. Unlike some of the more hesitant population, being a foreigner may work in your favour when befriending the leader.

WHO TO AVOID

Zhao Erfeng

Many Tibetans are feeling threatened by more Christian monasteries being established and the increasing control of the Chinese Qing Dynasty. This led to a rebellion in 1905, with Buddhist Lamas killing Chinese officials. Erfeng is one of these officials sent to squash the revolt. Although he exerts great power, his harsh tactics, including mass murder of innocents and burning monasteries, has earned him the name 'Zhao the Butcher.' Though he claims to work alongside the Dalai Lama, the two disagree massively, and he will force the holy leader into exile. Feared, loathed and detested, unless you want to attract negative attention, avoid the last amban in Tibet at all costs.



FIG.04

Helpful skills

The essential skills to help you flourish in this remote, traditional region

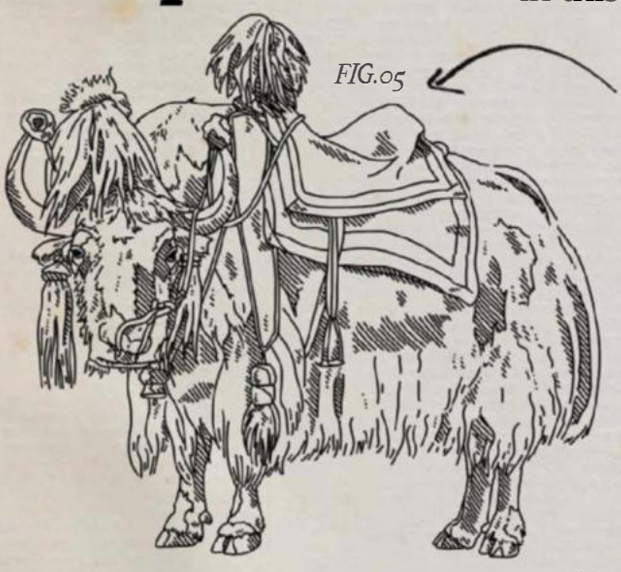


FIG.05

Animal handling

Yaks are an important part of Tibetan life; they pull the wood ploughs and carry goods along the unpaved tracks. Their milk is also consumed in large quantities, their skin used for tents and their dung even used as fuel.



FIG.07



FIG.06

Buddhism knowledge

Every aspect of Tibetan life is influenced by Buddhism, from literature to government. A good knowledge of the religion is essential if you wish to advance in this spiritual culture.

Dance

The Dalai Lama has a large entourage, but an unusual way to enter his inner circle is to become part of his dance troupe. However, be wary: it is rumoured to be extremely strict, with dancers being severely punished for missing any performances.



This rather romanticised 19th century image has Pocahontas clutching a tabacco pipe, which would be used in sacred ceremonies

POCAHONTAS

A PRINCESS AMONG ENGLAND'S SAVAGES

How a Native American woman became one of the wonders of Jacobean England

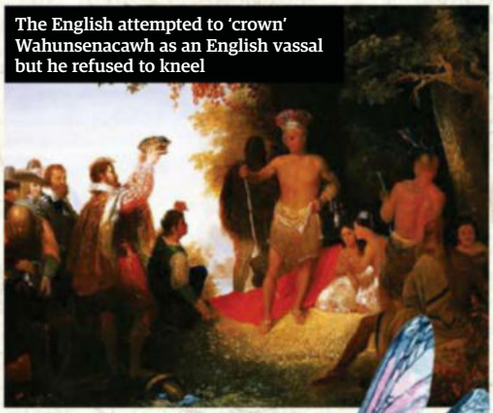
Written by Frances White

Pocahontas is a name that almost everyone in the Western world is familiar with. She conjures up images of a mysterious and beautiful Native American, a symbol of enduring love beyond racial boundaries with a bittersweet ending. Today this myth has been encouraged by the Disney production which bears her name, but this is not a modern phenomenon. Romanticised images and portrayals of the Powhatan chief's daughter occurred almost immediately after her early death. Pocahontas became the poster child for the civilised savage, a Juliet figure in tales of star-crossed lovers, she appeared on stamps, in songs and ballets. Her tale was told, changed and adapted until only remnants of truth remained. The story itself became separate from the actual woman, the one who lived, breathed, loved and died. Pocahontas' true thoughts and feelings are not recorded for history to study, so in order to understand the woman who inspired so many, we are required to look back on her life, and the true history behind the myth.

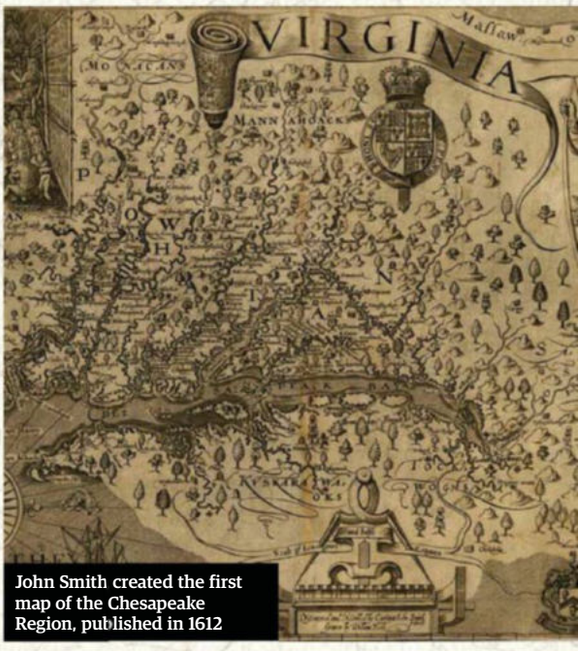
Born circa 1596, Pocahontas was not her birth name, instead the child was named Amonute. She was also called Matoaka by those closest to her, meaning 'bright stream between the hills.' She was born to a nameless woman, likely a commoner, and Wahunsenacawh, paramount chief of the Powhatan chiefdom. This empire comprised of around 30 different tribes, all with their own chiefs. Wahunsenacawh, as the paramount chief, was expected to keep unity and peace between all these different tribes of the Tidewater region of modern-day Virginia. We know little about Pocahontas' mother, and it is likely she died in childbirth. As the chief's children would usually live with their mother until they weaned, if this is true Pocahontas would have stayed with her father from birth, which certainly explains how she quickly became his favourite.

Girls, even the chief's daughter, were taught women's work from an early age. This was very different from the European definition, because in addition to rearing children, women would build houses and do all the farming, they collected firewood, made baskets and collected edible plants in the wilderness. Pocahontas would have learned all these skills, but what we also know is that from an early age she stood out. She had a tendency to wander off, she was an immensely curious and adventurous child, with little fear of danger. Her playful, inquisitive nature earned her the nickname 'Pocahontas', which means 'little wanton' or 'playful one.' Wanton or not, the frolicsome child became a quick favourite of her father, who had a hoard of children, calling her his "delight and darling."

The English first arrived in Virginia in April 1607. Their encounters with the natives had varied from friendly to hostile but in December of that year everything came to a head when John Smith, one of the leaders of the settlers, was captured by a hunting party led by one of Wahunsenacawh's brothers. The English explorer was taken to Werowocomoco, the capital of the Powhatan empire. What occurred after this point is up for some debate. Smith himself claimed that as he was brought before the chief two large stones

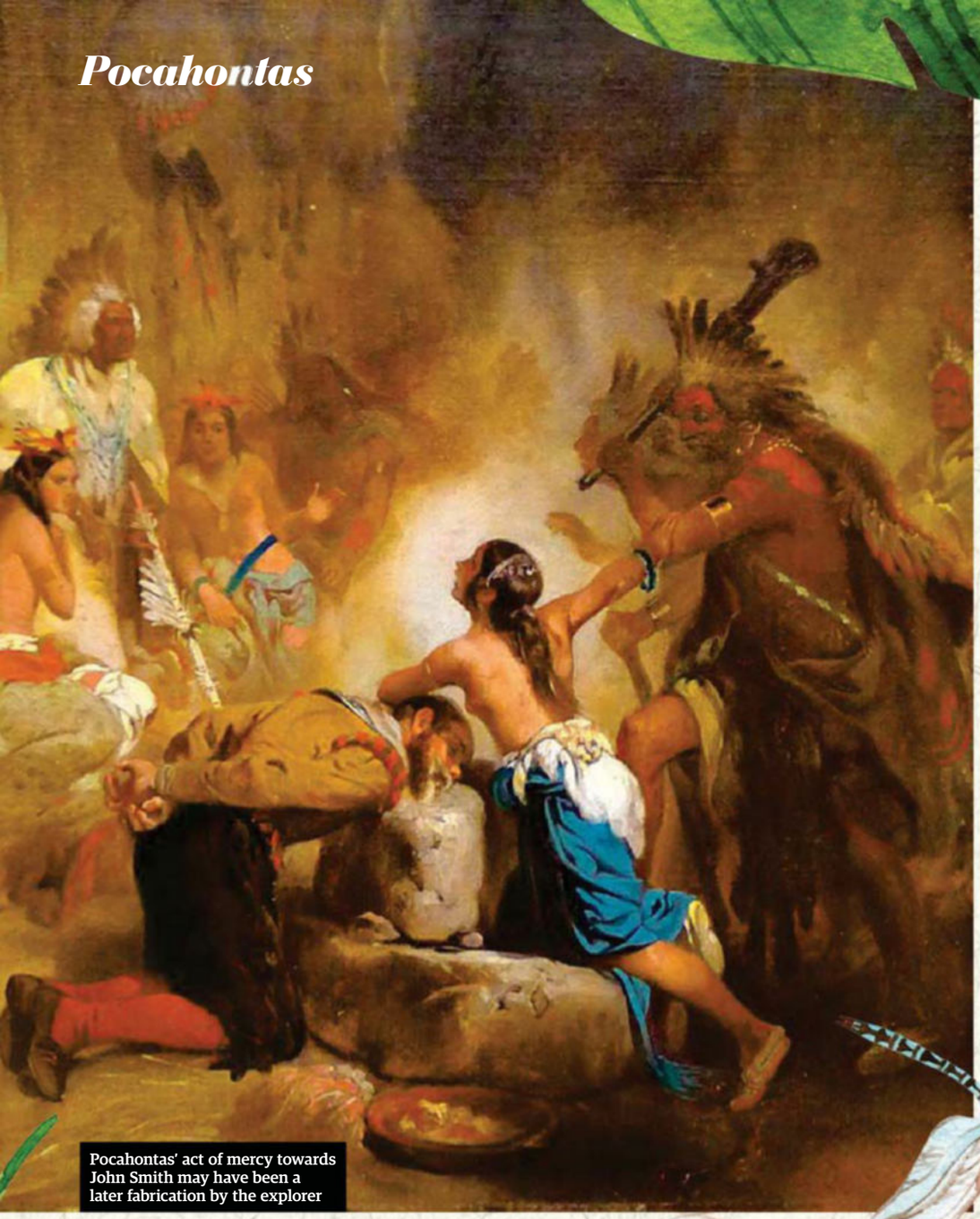


The English attempted to 'crown' Wahunsenacawh as an English vassal but he refused to kneel



John Smith created the first map of the Chesapeake Region, published in 1612

"SHE WAS A CURIOUS AND ADVENTUROUS CHILD"



Pocahontas' act of mercy towards John Smith may have been a later fabrication by the explorer

were put on the ground, his head was placed upon them and a warrior raised a club to smash his brains. Just as the club was raised a young girl leapt forward and placed her head upon his, halting the execution. That young girl was, of course, the 11-year-old Pocahontas.

However, the romantic and dramatic scene that Smith painted is greatly contested. Some believe that what Smith experienced was not a true threat to his life, but instead a ritual intended to symbolise his death and rebirth as part of the tribe, and he was never in any actual danger. Others, however, do not believe the event occurred at all. Smith neglected to mention his near death experience in his earliest account of the event – in 1608 he simply writes that he enjoyed a great feast and a long talk with the chief. In fact, it wasn't until nine years later, when Pocahontas was preparing to visit England, that he uttered a word about this 'execution', which seems a peculiar thing to leave out. It is quite possible Smith invented this event to paint Pocahontas in a good light before her visit.

Whether it happened or not, we do know that Pocahontas went on to befriend the English settlers in the Jamestown colony, Smith especially. Curious and friendly, Pocahontas frequently visited the settlement to play games with the boys, as well as bringing the starving men provisions from her people. She quickly became a favourite of the colonists, and in 1609 she cemented this friendship by saving the lives of Smith and others by warning them of an ambush. However, later that year Smith was injured in a gunpowder explosion and forced to return to England. The Powhatan were told he was dead, and Pocahontas had no reason not to believe this.

THE TOXIC MYTH OF THE NOBLE SAVAGE

The Age of Discovery, beginning in the 15th century, saw the major European powers scour the globe for new trade opportunities and lands to conquer. The vast American continents, famously rediscovered by Christopher Columbus, presented unrivalled opportunity for the adventurous, brave or desperate to cultivate luxury resources, like tobacco, and found settlements. This new land was particularly inviting to religious dissidents, such as the Puritans and Quakers who faced persecution at home. England, which was being beaten to the punch by powers like Spain and France, needed new land and it needed it fast. Because of this, when they encountered native tribes their main focus was not to learn or grow from them, but to do anything necessary to get what they needed. Initially this meant formal contracts between the two peoples, however for many, it involved war, conquest and bloodshed.

For a country desperate to conquer and profit, it was far easier to view these indigenous people as 'savages'. European settlers regarded the natives as not meeting the standards of civilised society, living by the laws of nature, without religion, education or morals. This concept relied on the idea that the natives were in the 'original' human state, primitive and backward, infant in their humanity. Two attitudes towards the Native Americans arose – the brutal and noble savage. The noble savage was the belief that these people reflected an innocent version of humanity, untainted by modern society. The natives were a 'blank slate' on which Christian ideals and civilisation could be imposed upon. Both of these ideas – the noble and brutal – were fantasies of the European mind, ones that established the natives as 'other' and unlike them in any way, whether that was elevated purity, or degraded evil. Although many European colonists recognised the strengths of the native people, they were always held at a distance, as if commenting on the virtues of a wild animal, not a fellow human. It was this strict distinction between 'us' and 'them' that allowed Europeans to rationalise their actions, claiming to be saving and civilising what was ultimately a 'savage' society.



In this scene the 'old world' is depicted waking up the backwards, savage Americas

Although Pocahontas enjoyed playing with the English settlers, relations between the two nations were rapidly deteriorating. Wahunsenacawh was growing tired of the English demand for food, and also felt his lands were being threatened by the colonists, who were steadily expanding their influence. These tensions rapidly mounted into war, the English burned towns and destroyed cornfields, and the natives tried their best to repulse the invaders

"ARGALL REFUSED TO LET THE GIRL GO"

with ambushes. These attacks were trying on the English who were already struggling with lack of resources, and were very aware they actually needed the native's co-operation to maintain their settlements. However, in 1613, the English discovered that Pocahontas was living with the Patawomeck tribe. Seeing this as a chance for leverage with Wahunsenacawh, Sir Samuel Argall, an English naval officer, worked with the not entirely loyal chief of the Patawomeck to capture Wahunsenacawh's most beloved daughter.

Japazeus, the Patawomeck chief and Pocahontas' host, tricked the young girl by luring her onto Argall's ship. Quick and clever, Pocahontas at first refused to go on board, sensing something was amiss, but was finally coerced by the tears of the chief's wife. Argall then refused to let the girl go, and sent word to her father that she was being held as ransom for English prisoners and weapons. Pocahontas was brought to Henricus, a small settlement in Jamestown and when her father heard of the terms, he agreed to release seven



It was a novelty for the English to see a Powhatan woman in English clothing

FAMOUS DESCENDANTS

The remarkable people who can claim lineage from the famous Powhatan princess

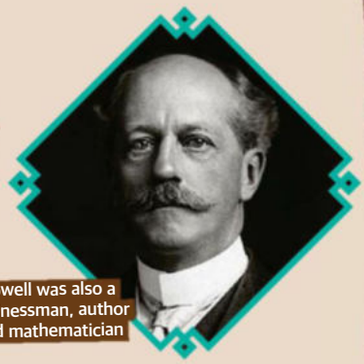

Edith would become the FLOTUS to visit Europe during her incumbency

EDITH WILSON

A ninth generation descendant of Pocahontas through her father, Edith Wilson was the wife of President Woodrow Wilson. Immensely proud of her heritage, Edith ran the executive branch of government when her husband fell unwell, and was the first FLOTUS to do so.

PERCIVAL LOWELL

Related through Pocahantas' father, Lowell was an American astronomer who speculated that there were canals on Mars. As well as also drawing maps of Venus, Lowell began the search for 'Planet X', which would eventually lead to the discovery of Pluto.


Lowell was also a businessman, author and mathematician

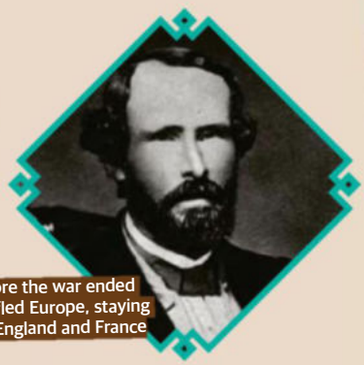

Byrd claimed to be the first to reach the North and South pole by air

RICHARD E BYRD

A descendant of John Rolfe and Pocahontas, Byrd was a respected and accomplished naval officer. A recipient of the medal of honour, Byrd was known for his pioneering aviation skills, as well as his polar explorations.

GEORGE W RANDOLPH

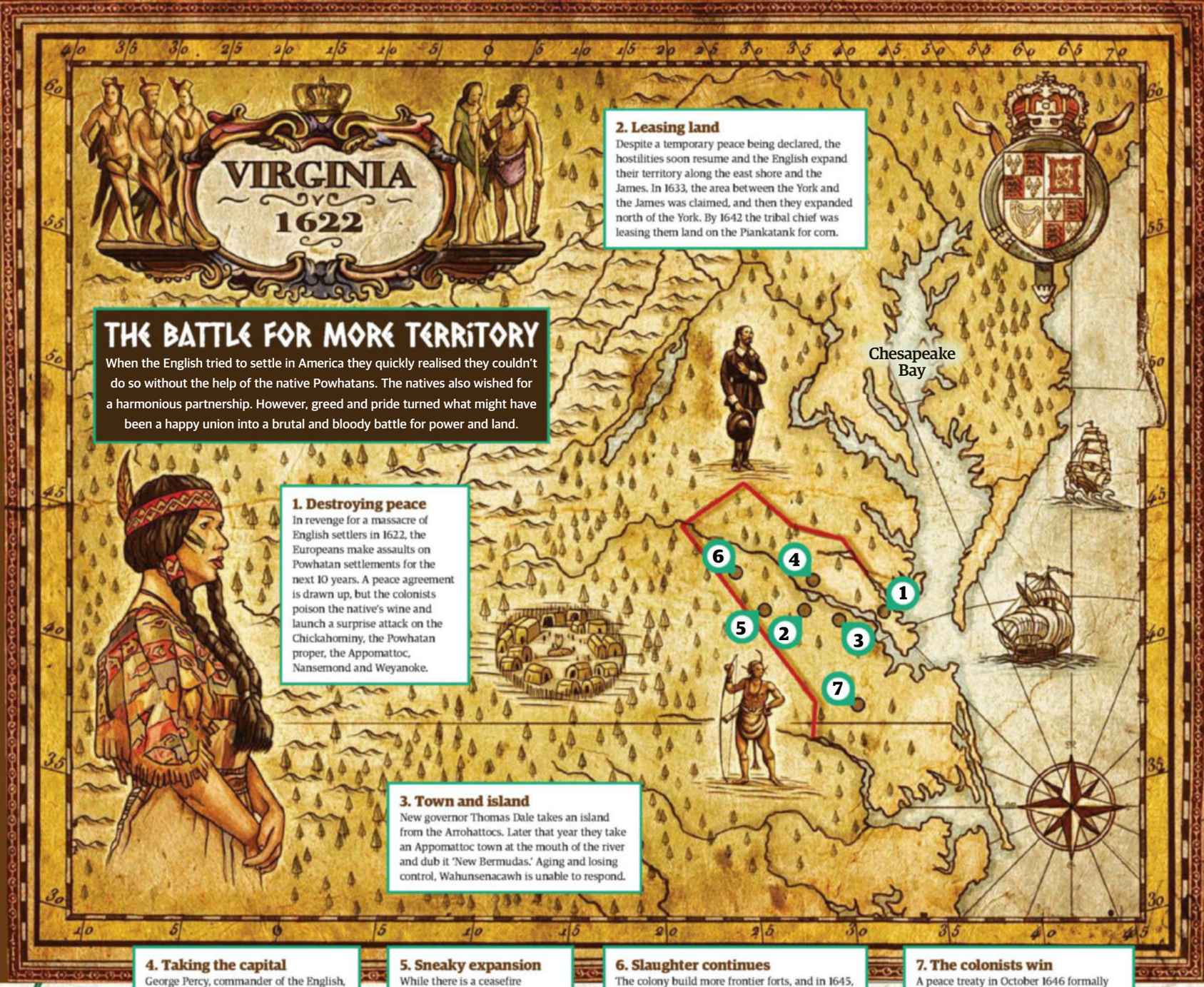
Related to Pocahontas through her only son, Thomas Rolfe, Randolph served as a confederate General during the American Civil War. Also Thomas Jefferson's grandson, Randolph was made secretary of war and helped write the conscription law.


Just before the war ended Randolph fled Europe, staying mainly in England and France


Strange's monster became iconic, appearing on multiple collectable paraphernalia

GLENN STRANGE

An eighth generation descendant of Pocahontas and Rolfe, Strange achieved fame as an actor in Western films. Originally travelling to Hollywood in a singing group, he went on to appear in many cowboy films, the *Gunsmoke* TV series and as Frankenstein's monster in three films.



prisoners. However, he refused to return the weapons and tools, and negotiations ended. Beloved daughter she may have been, but Wahunsenacawh was fighting a war, and family allegiances were second to advantage and victory.

In the year-long wait between negotiations, Pocahontas was kept in Henricus. Her time there is not well documented, though some claim she was raped and mistreated. However this doesn't really align with the English interests in keeping her safe at this time. Pocahontas was a very important captive for the English, who feared native retaliation. During her time there she received lessons from the minister to improve her English, and she also converted to Christianity, taking the Christian name Rebecca. Considering later events it seemed this occurred genuinely, rather than through any fear or intimidation.

During her capture at the settlement, Pocahontas met John Rolfe, a plantation owner who had previously lost his wife and child before he arrived in Virginia. Rolfe quickly developed romantic feelings for Pocahontas, which by all accounts appear to be heartfelt. However, he agonised over the morals of marrying her, a native girl, but in his letter to the governor requesting the marriage, he claimed that his heart belonged to her. It would have been easier for Rolfe to marry an English woman, but he seemed entirely enamoured with Pocahontas. On 5 April 1614, the two were married, with the permission of Wahunsenacawh, who sent her uncle to the wedding to represent himself and his people.

This wedding, whether intentional or not, had a huge impact on the relations between the natives and the English. The union fostered a lull known as the 'Peace of Pocahontas' between the two warring tribes, with friendly trade flourishing. Pocahontas, the little girl bearing corn and warnings, had always been a symbol of peace for the colonists, but now she had truly helped to end the fighting between the two nations. This peace between the Jamestown residents and the Powhatan lasted eight years, and this was cemented with the birth of a child – Thomas Rolfe, an interracial child who seemed to symbolise a new harmony between the two peoples.

Pocahontas lived peacefully with Rolfe on his plantation for two years, however, the tale of the converted 'savage' travelled quickly through to the Virginia Company, the trading business who financed the colonies on the east coast. The company saw her marriage, conversion and subsequent peace as a great marketing opportunity to promote investment in Jamestown. Leaping on the PR opportunity, the Virginia Company paid for Pocahontas and her family to travel to England. This was no mere holiday – this trip was made with the intention of displaying what England could do for the 'savages' and to promote how well Jamestown was doing, and Pocahontas was chosen to be the poster child.

Accompanied by around a dozen other Powhatan natives, Pocahontas travelled to England in 1616. The party toured the country attending various social gatherings, and in 1617 she met King James at the Palace of Whitehall. As the daughter of the chief, Pocahontas was presented as a princess and although this did not fit the Powhatan culture, it afforded her a high degree of respect in the country. Pocahontas seemed to leave a good impression on the people, most likely coached by the Virginia Company, and she presented herself a polite, cultured lady.

However, this was not the case for everyone. The 'new world' was still frightening and mysterious to many Europeans, and the bias of the 'brutal savage' was firmly ingrained in many. It is almost impossible to imagine that a Native American, even a daughter of a chief, would be treated with an unbiased degree of respect. For many of the locals she and the other Powhatans were regarded as curiosities, to be gawked and stared at. Pocahontas wasn't presented as how cultured a 'savage' could be, but instead, how much the English nation could do to 'better' them.

It was during her time in England that Pocahontas was reunited with an old friend. John Smith, who she had been told was dead, met the couple at a social gathering and, according to Smith, Pocahontas was so overcome with emotion that she was unable to speak or look at him. After finding her voice she was quick to remind him of the kind things she had done for him, and the terrible way his people had treated her own. She discomforted him further by calling him 'father' as he had done to her own father. When he did not allow this, she became passionate and angry and said: "Were you not afraid to come into my father's country and caused fear in him and all his people (but me) and fear you here I should call you 'father'?" Finally she informed Smith that the English had said he was dead, but Wahunsenacawh had suspected otherwise as "your countrymen will lie much." It seems unlikely that Smith would have invented this heated, critical exchange concerning his own people, so this is a rare insight into a Pocahontas that is less obliging, less adoring of the English and, perhaps, a glimpse into her true nature – fiery, passionate and loyal. A converted woman she may have been, but she had not forgotten the hurt the English had brought upon her own people.

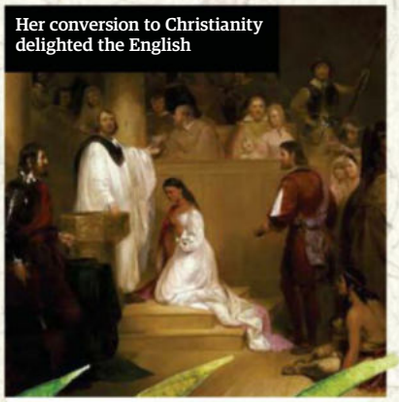
"SHE HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THE HURT THE ENGLISH HAD BROUGHT"



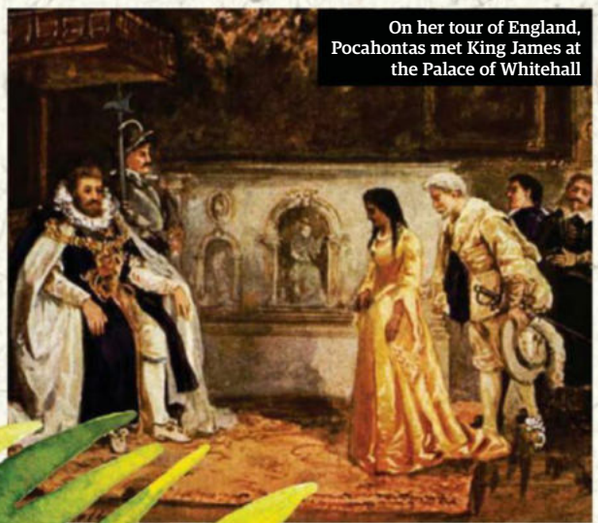
Pocahontas' marriage helped ease the tensions between natives and English, but the peace wouldn't last

By March 1617 the Rolfe family began their journey back to Virginia. However, this came to an abrupt and sudden end as while sailing on the River Thames, Pocahontas fell gravely ill. She was taken ashore in Gravesend and died of an unknown illness, though popular theories include pneumonia and dysentery. Her husband recorded that her last words were "all must die, but 'tis enough that the child liveth." The body of the chief's daughter never found its way back to her native homeland, and instead she was buried in Saint George's church on 21 March 1617. Her husband continued the journey to Virginia, but her beloved son remained in England until 1635, when he returned to his homeland to become a successful tobacco planter.

Within a year of Pocahontas' death, her father followed his beloved daughter. The deaths marked the end of the brief period of peace enjoyed by the natives and the colonists, and ushered in an era of more war, murder and bloodshed than ever before. Pocahontas, with her kind, curious and adventurous spirit, had provided hope of a peaceful union for both parties, but with her dead and gone at only 21 years of age, that peace was over, and her people would begin a descent into a dark, devastating fate.



Her conversion to Christianity delighted the English



On her tour of England, Pocahontas met King James at the Palace of Whitehall

© Alamy



George Otto Gey

The scientist who changed biomedical research by immortalising a woman without her knowledge

Written by Laura Mears

There were no drugs for cancer in the 1920s. It was the knife or radiation, and the outlook for patients was bleak. George Gey knew this when he took up a post directing the Tissue Culture Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University in 1923, and he was determined to make a change.

He was a gentle giant. A weekend fisherman with a penchant for scrapheap diving and a talent for inventing. Hidden away in an old janitor's office with his wife Margaret, he dreamed of growing cancer cells outside of the body so that he could poke and prod them until they spat out the recipe for a possible cure.

Normal cells die after reproducing 40 or 50 times, but cancer cells divide without limits, growing and growing to form a tumour that eventually breaks apart at the edges, seeding the body with endlessly replicating lumps and nodules. In theory, they should be immortal, if only George could get them to grow – but it was an impossible dream. Human cells, even cancerous ones, didn't survive in tubes.

Cancer cells grow in clusters, supported by a network of crisscrossed fibres riddled with blood vessels. The cells are used to constant temperatures, an unending supply of nutrients, and a rich flow of oxygen. The body removes waste, sends nurturing growth signals, and clears debris. George wanted to take all of that away and put living tumours in specimen jars so that their biology could be dissected.

He made his test tubes by hand, blowing the glass himself. They needed to be washed between uses, so he stockpiled an entire shipping container of gentle soap that wouldn't leave a residue toxic to the cells. For nutrients, George and his wife concocted a blood surrogate using a strange mixture of raw materials. The broth would bathe the cells, supplying food and oxygen and drawing out waste.

The basis of the elixir was blood harvested from fresh placenta. It could be stripped of cells to leave behind a straw-coloured liquid full of nutrients and salts, and there was a ready supply of discarded

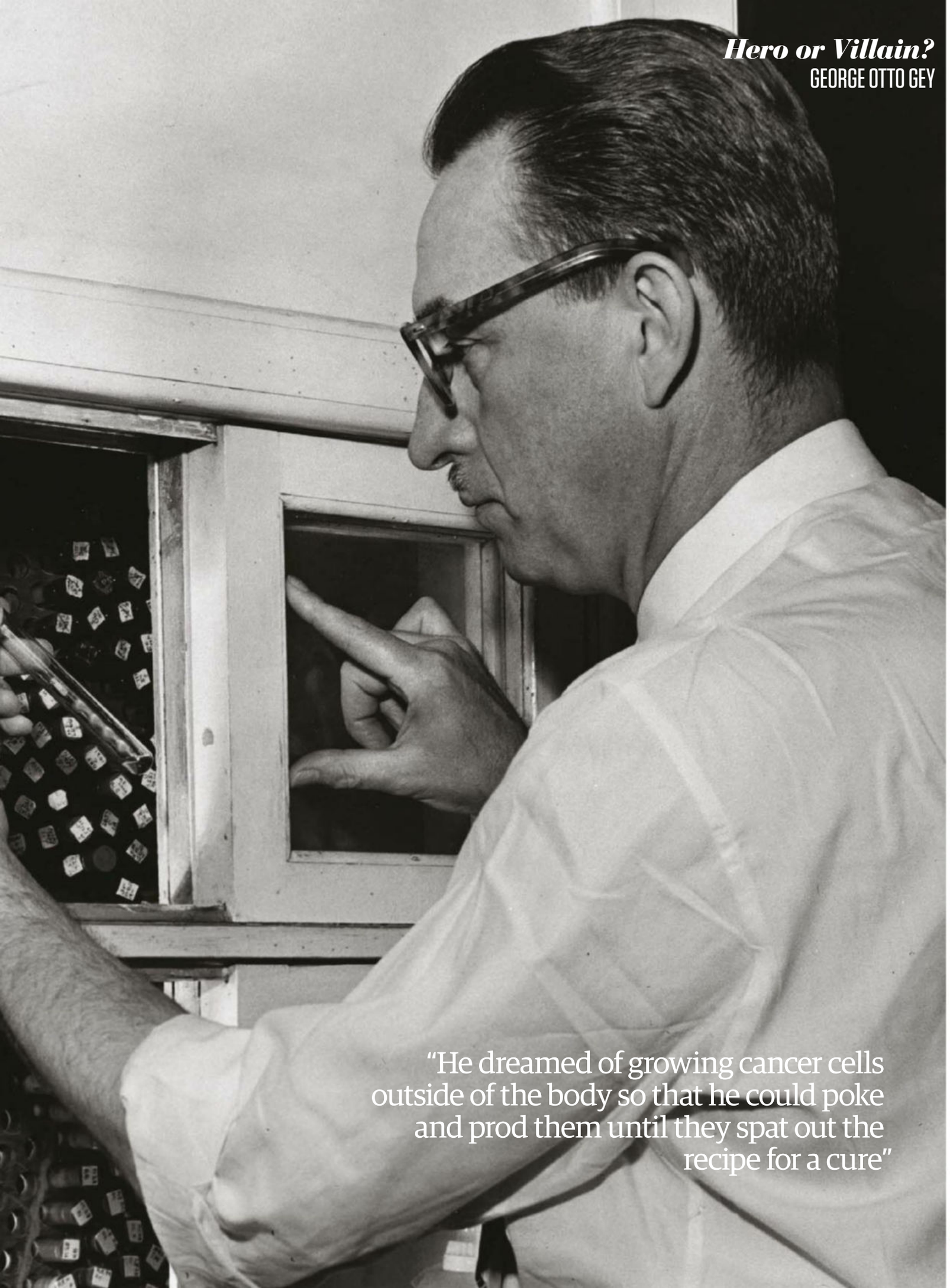


Defining moment

Move to Johns Hopkins

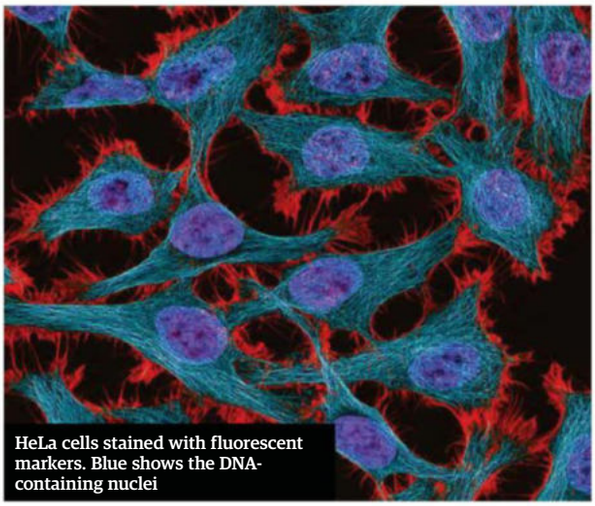
After completing a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Pittsburgh, George Otto Gey sets up his laboratory at Johns Hopkins University. From their base in a converted office, he and his wife spend decades tinkering with the complex and challenging science of cell culture, perfecting the techniques and equipment needed to grow cells outside of the body as they try to find a long-awaited cure for cancer.

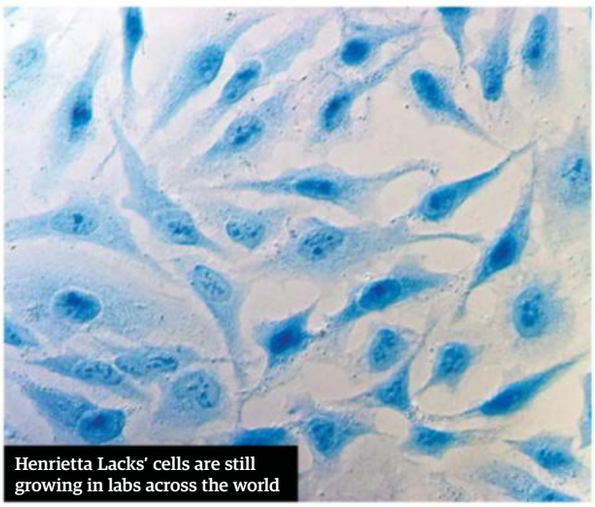
1923



"He dreamed of growing cancer cells outside of the body so that he could poke and prod them until they spat out the recipe for a cure"

© Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives


HeLa cells stained with fluorescent markers. Blue shows the DNA-containing nuclei


Henrietta Lacks' cells are still growing in labs across the world


Henrietta Lacks died in 1951 and sparked a medical revolution



organs in the maternity ward at the hospital. Whenever a sample became available, a buzzer would sound and Margaret would rush over to collect it.

To this, the pair would add the crushed remains of a cow embryo, courtesy of the local slaughterhouse, its innards providing a rich mixture of molecules on which the cells could feed. As an extra source of nutrients and support, the cells were provided with a clot of chicken blood, drawn from birds at a local poultry farm. Most survived the donation, and those that didn't were paid for and eaten.

The final component was a whirling drum that turned once an hour to slosh the liquid over the cells, allowing them to pick up nutrients and discard waste as though blood and tissue fluid were passing inside the body. George made this too, using the pendulum from a clock to keep time.

Defining moment

Growing immortal cells

Dr Ward Coffman sends George and his team a tissue sample from a patient with cervical cancer — 31-year-old Henrietta Lacks. They place the samples into their tubes and within days the cells start to grow. They continue to divide and divide, becoming the world's first immortal cell line. This breakthrough forms the foundation of modern medical science, but Henrietta and her family never knew.

1951

The couple poured over the lists of operations at the hospital, looking for opportunities to scrub up, enter theatre and collect cancer tissue to put into their tubes. Margaret was a surgical nurse by training. But, time after time, cells that grew vigorously inside patients withered and died in the lab without giving up any of their secrets. For decades, the pair meticulously tended to their experiments, but none lived longer than a few months.

On 9 February 1951, everything changed. Richard Telinde, a professor of gynaecology at Johns Hopkins Hospital, had heard about George's work. He wanted to try to grow cells from the cervix in the rolling tubes, and his assistant resident, Dr Ward Coffman, set about collecting samples. George assigned a junior technician, 21-year-old Mary Kubicek, to the project.

It was a Friday lunchtime when George put a small lump of tissue onto Mary's lab bench. She carefully sliced the sample into cubes, dropped a few into each tube with the nutrient broth and set them rolling. No one held out much hope for their survival, but in the quiet of the drum, the cells started to divide. One became two, two became four, four became eight, and at the edges of each cube, tendrils of new tissue began to form.

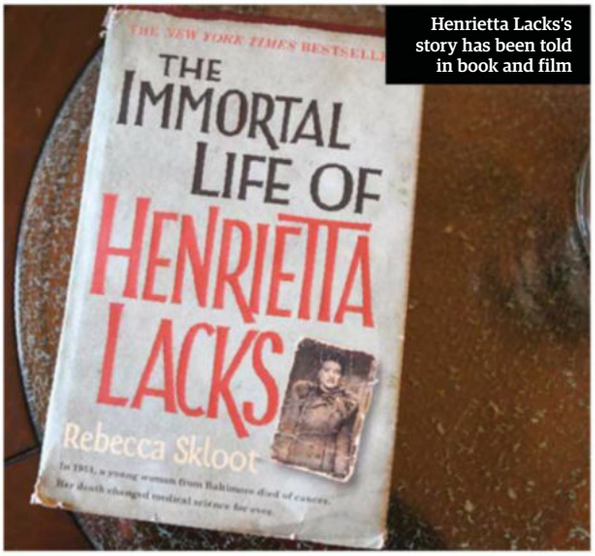
Every 24 hours, a new generation of cells sputtered into existence and, within a few days, there were so many that the samples had to be removed, cut up and split into more glass vials to make room. Week after week there were more cells. At last, George and Margaret had achieved their dream. They had made an immortal cell line – a factory for producing living human cells – and they wanted to share it.

George mentored junior researchers in the art of cell culture and he sent vials of cells to other labs so that they could start growing their own. They survived trips by road, rail and air, travelling through the post and in pockets and backpacks, and soon they were multiplying in incubators across the world. And then the breakthroughs started coming.

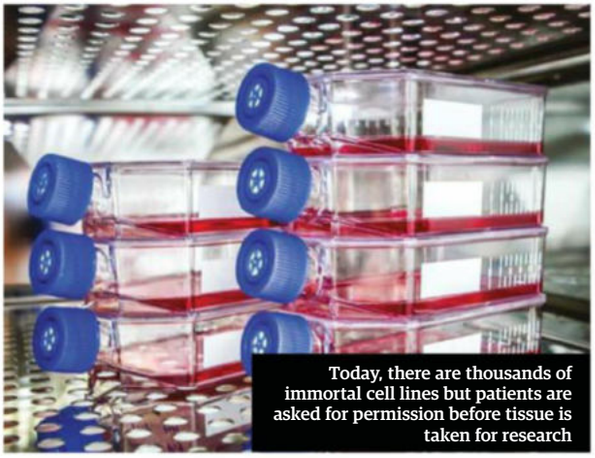
In Pittsburgh, Jonas Salk had developed a vaccine for polio. During the early part of the 20th century, major epidemics had been sweeping across



Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, where Henrietta Lacks was treated



Henrietta Lacks's story has been told in book and film



Today, there are thousands of immortal cell lines but patients are asked for permission before tissue is taken for research

Defining moment

The family find out

A chance conversation alerts the Lacks family to Henrietta's immortal cells thanks to their codename — HeLa, from the donor's first and last names. They are approached by scientists for blood samples and by journalists for stories. As they fight for the right to have Henrietta's contribution recognised, their story is collected and told by Rebecca Skloot in her bestselling book, *The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks*.

1975

Europe and the United States, killing thousands and leaving many more with lifelong paralysis. A vaccine could save lives, but it needed to be tested on human cells before it could be trialled in people. George's lab had created the solution. Mountains of human cells could be produced virtually from thin air and, in under a year, the vaccine had been checked. By the 1960s, cases of polio in the US had plummeted.

The cells went on to be used in the development of more vaccines and to examine other infectious diseases. They allowed scientists to explore how cells grow, divide and die and, as George had hoped, they began to give up cancer's secrets, leading to the development of new treatments. They were the first human cells grown in space, and they led to two Nobel Prizes. More than 60 years later, they are still growing.

Over 90,000 scientific papers have been published as a result of George and Margaret's pioneering work, but behind the breakthroughs was an untold secret. In February 1951, a 31-year-old woman made the trip to Johns Hopkins Hospital with her family. She sat in the doctor's office and explained that she had been bleeding and she could feel a knot in her body. Her name was Henrietta Lacks, and she had not long given birth to her youngest son.

Henrietta had travelled 32 kilometres in the rain with five young children in tow because no other hospital in the area would see African-American patients. Her husband, David, was a steelworker, and she a homemaker, the granddaughter of a tobacco farmer from Virginia. Her family waited in the car as she was told that she had cancer.

A biopsy was taken of her tumour before her treatment began. At the time, there were no rules about what could happen to the spare tissue, and it was handed to George Gey without her permission. He took it to his lab technician and she went back to her family. He watched in wonder as her cells took over his glass tubes, while her family watched in pain as the cancer took over her body. She died on 4 October 1951 and her relatives had no idea that part of her lived on.

Over 20 years later, the wife of her eldest son sat down for dinner with a neighbour, a chance encounter that finally revealed the truth. When George took samples into his lab, he gave them a code made from the first two letters of the patient's first and last name. Henrietta's cells were called 'HeLa', and her son's neighbour was a scientist. He recognised the family surname.

At around the same time, they started receiving phone calls from researchers interested in their genes, and from writers interested in their story. Henrietta's tissue had been taken without her consent and shared without her knowledge, and her genes and medical information were now the subject of worldwide scrutiny. Suddenly, the Lacks family discovered the monumental impact of her involuntary gift.

Henrietta's descendants have had to battle for the right to privacy and recognition, but the scientist himself wasn't around to explain — he died of cancer in November 1970, aged 71. One of his last wishes was that his own tumour be immortalised as Henrietta's had been all those years before, but his request went unfulfilled. Their joint legacy, however, lives on.

Was George Gey a hero or a villain? Let us know what you think

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French nobility
The French nobility turned out in force for the expedition to quell the uprising of the people of Flanders. In this romanticised image, a French knight wearing a crown and noble trappings, possibly representing King Philip IV although he was not present, wounds a Flemish infantryman with a lance.

By hook or crook
This depiction of the Battle of the Golden Spurs shows some Flemish infantrymen armed with long crooks. They were undoubtedly intended to grapple with French knights, pulling them from their horses so that they would be easy prey for foot soldiers with spiked weapons.

French infantrymen
French infantrymen actually followed a flurry of arrows fired from crossbows during the attack on the Flemish positions at the Battle of the Golden Spurs. Carrying long lances, they initially pushed the Flemish lines back.

Wall of pikes
The French infantrymen in this image are carrying long pikes, effective weapons against opposing foot soldiers or horsemen. Essentially long poles tipped with sharpened iron points, the pikes presented a formidable offensive or defensive line when infantry ranks were closed.

Combined arms charge
This depiction of the battle presents a somewhat false image of its progress. The French did not advance in a combined formation of horsemen and infantry – the infantry followed a barrage of arrows from crossbowmen and were then withdrawn in favour of the charge of knights that followed.

Close quarter casualties
The melee that occurred during the early stages of the Battle of the Golden Spurs resulted in horrendous casualties as the French infantry gained the upper hand. Flemish casualties lie on the ground as the French forces advance.



The mighty goedendag
Flemish infantrymen brandish a regional weapon called the goedendag, which was ideal for unseating French knights and inflicting grievous wounds on both man and horse. The spike at the end of the long wooden shaft was specially designed for the purpose of penetrating armour.

GREATEST BATTLES

BATTLE OF THE GOLDEN SPURS

COURTRAI, COUNTY OF FLANDERS 11 JULY 1302

Written by Mike Haskew

The territorial ambitions of King Philip IV of France and the Flemish desire to throw off the oppressive French yoke spawned the Battle of the Golden Spurs, also known as the Battle of Courtrai, in Flanders on 11 July 1302. The heavy hand of French rule brought periods of unrest to Flanders, and rebellion followed when Flemish militia laid siege to Courtrai Castle, an unwilling host to a French garrison.

Word of the uprising reached Philip, who sent an army of 2,500 of the finest noble knights of the realm along with 5,500 infantrymen under Count Robert II of Artois to quell the insurrection. The Flemish army comprised volunteers from across the region. Rather than noblemen, the troops were craftsmen, members of the various guilds that were prevalent among the middle and lower social classes in Europe at the time. Although they were not professional soldiers, they trained together, taking pride in their martial capabilities.

Cost was a significant factor in the composition of the opposing armies – outfitting a knight was expensive. A worthy steed was also costly and thus the role of the knight was usually reserved for the nobility. The Flemish were outfitted at a much lower cost, typically armed with the goedendag, a regional weapon similar to a pike, and typically wore only helmets and light armour. Flemish strength approached 9,000 infantrymen and estimates of knights range from 10-200, with the force being led by William of Jülich and Guy of Namur.

As the French marched across Flanders towards Courtrai, news of their atrocities enraged the Flemish. Unable to seize Courtrai Castle, the Flemish prepared for battle and dug trenches, holes and impediments to charging horses on favourable ground. Anchoring their line along the River Lys, they took advantage of small streams and marshes that would slow an attacking force. The French would be funnelled into a narrow approach.

The battle opened with an exchange of arrows from crossbowmen. French infantrymen advanced, made good progress, and stretched the Flemish line. However, Robert of Artois recalled his infantry to allow the haughty knights the honour of finishing off the upstart Flemish.

The French rapidly ran into trouble: the difficult terrain prevented a coordinated effort, and the horsemen broke up into small groups that were assailed by the Flemish wielding the goedendag with deadly efficiency. One group of Frenchmen broke through, but was surrounded and slaughtered. The French infantry fled. Robert of Artois begged for his life but was not spared. While only 100 Flemish were killed, the French nobility lost 1,000.

Following their triumph, the Flemish gathered hundreds of spurs from fallen French knights, giving it its name. The battle ushered in an 'age of infantry' that ended the preeminence of the mounted knight; even small regions could raise powerful armies at reasonable expense, and future battles of the Middle Ages were fought much differently.

French Army

TROOPS 5,500
KNIGHTS 2,500



COUNT ROBERT II OF ARTOIS

LEADER

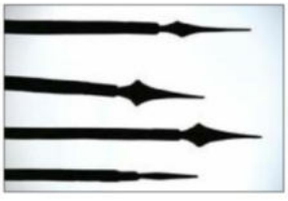
Count Robert II of Artois was an experienced commander and was known to have won numerous contests in single combat.
Strengths: Veteran commander with a good grasp of military and battlefield tactics.
Weaknesses: Unable to adapt to changing circumstances and failure to understand terrain.



FRENCH KNIGHTS

KEY UNIT

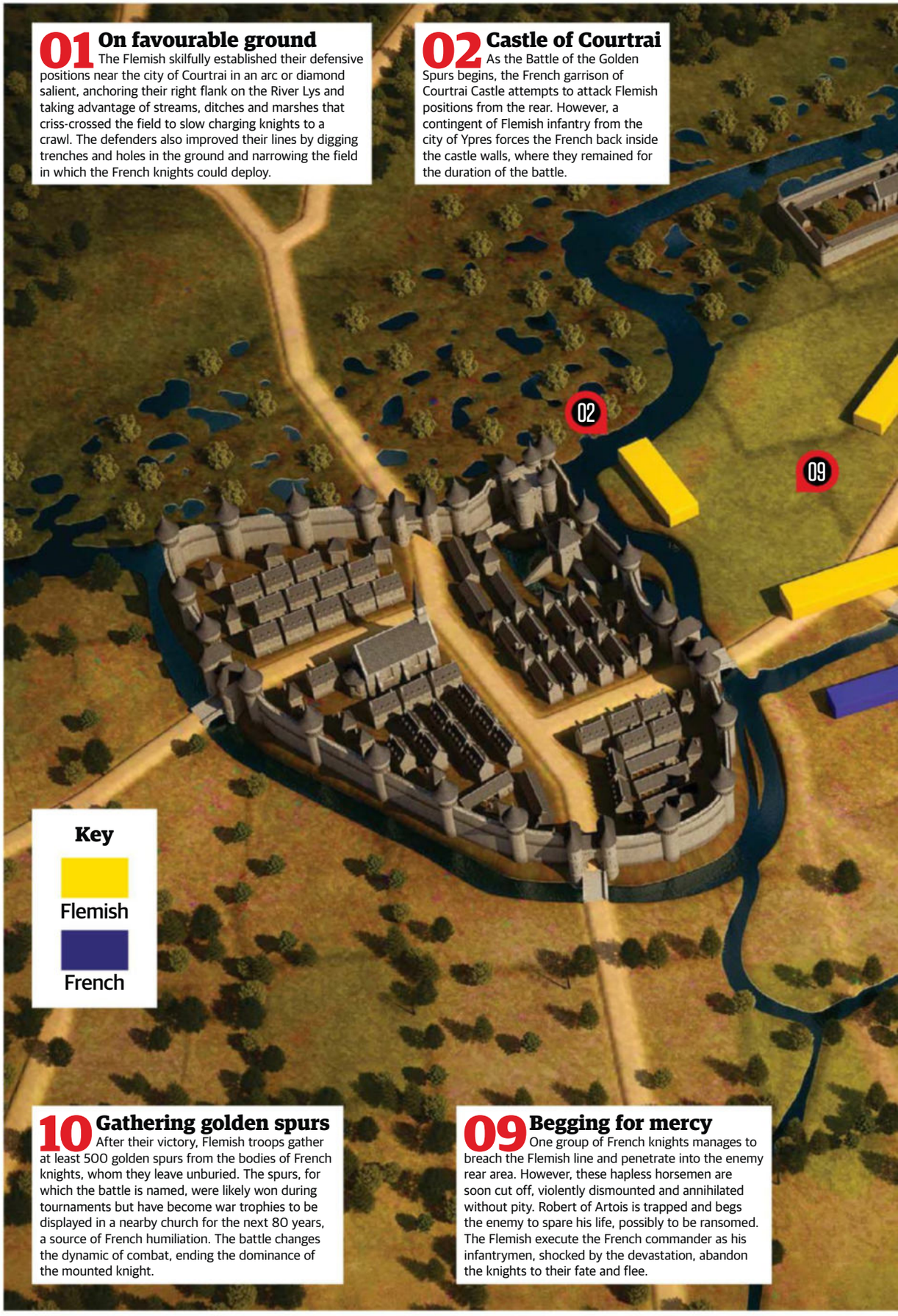
The heavily armed and armoured noble knight was the king of the battlefield prior to the Battle of the Golden Spurs.
Strengths: Armour protection and weight of attacking force.
Weakness: Lack of mobility if unhorsed and vulnerable to prepared infantry.

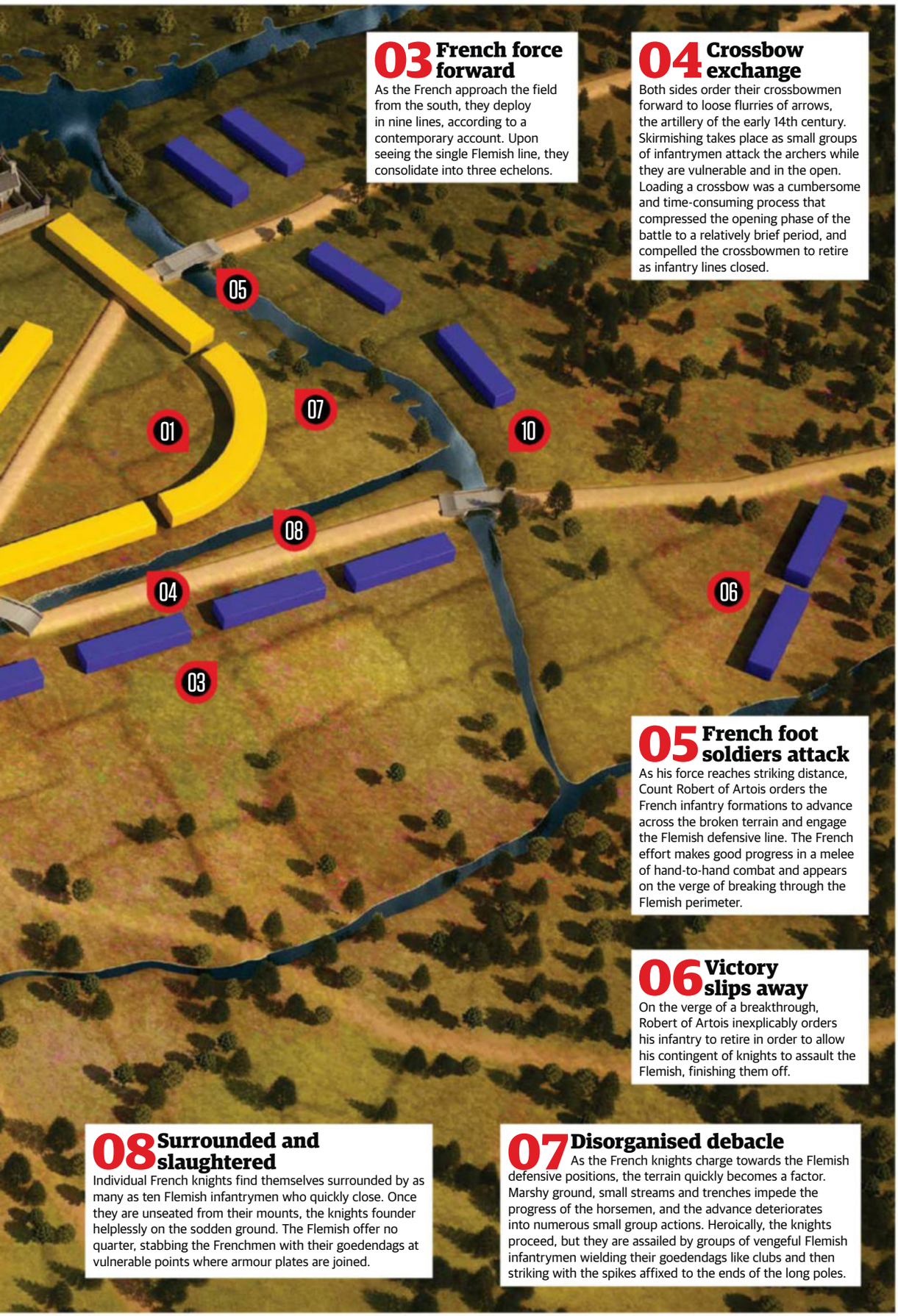


PIKE

KEY WEAPON

A long pole with a sharp multipoint spike attached, the pike was a standard medieval weapon.
Strengths: Penetrating power against charging enemy forces.
Weaknesses: Very difficult to use if the opponent gets past the weapon's effective range.





03 French force forward

As the French approach the field from the south, they deploy in nine lines, according to a contemporary account. Upon seeing the single Flemish line, they consolidate into three echelons.

04 Crossbow exchange

Both sides order their crossbowmen forward to loose flurries of arrows, the artillery of the early 14th century. Skirmishing takes place as small groups of infantrymen attack the archers while they are vulnerable and in the open. Loading a crossbow was a cumbersome and time-consuming process that compressed the opening phase of the battle to a relatively brief period, and compelled the crossbowmen to retire as infantry lines closed.

05 French foot soldiers attack

As his force reaches striking distance, Count Robert of Artois orders the French infantry formations to advance across the broken terrain and engage the Flemish defensive line. The French effort makes good progress in a melee of hand-to-hand combat and appears on the verge of breaking through the Flemish perimeter.

06 Victory slips away

On the verge of a breakthrough, Robert of Artois inexplicably orders his infantry to retire in order to allow his contingent of knights to assault the Flemish, finishing them off.

07 Disorganised debacle

As the French knights charge towards the Flemish defensive positions, the terrain quickly becomes a factor. Marshy ground, small streams and trenches impede the progress of the horsemen, and the advance deteriorates into numerous small group actions. Heroically, the knights proceed, but they are assailed by groups of vengeful Flemish infantrymen wielding their goedendags like clubs and then striking with the spikes affixed to the ends of the long poles.

08 Surrounded and slaughtered

Individual French knights find themselves surrounded by as many as ten Flemish infantrymen who quickly close. Once they are unseated from their mounts, the knights founder helplessly on the sodden ground. The Flemish offer no quarter, stabbing the Frenchmen with their goedendags at vulnerable points where armour plates are joined.

Flemish Army

TROOPS 9,000
KNIGHTS 200



WILLIAM OF JÜLICH

LEADER

Perhaps motivated by revenge, William of Jülich received a grand welcome as he arrived to assist Flemish arms.

Strengths: Popular with his troops and solid tactician.

Weaknesses: Little experience in actual combat situations.



FLEMISH INFANTRYMEN

KEY UNIT

Although they were not professional soldiers, the Flemish infantry were well trained and well led at Courtrai.

Strengths: Disciplined and committed to their cause.

Weaknesses: Despite training, they lacked the experience of professional soldiers.



GOEDENDAG

KEY WEAPON

A regional weapon, the goedendag consisted of a three- to five-foot pole topped with an iron spike.

Strengths: Effective as a club or thrusting weapon.

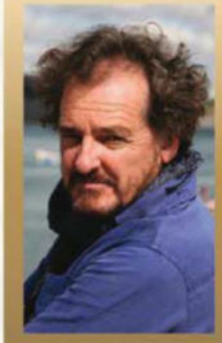
Weaknesses: Close-quarter weapon sometimes difficult to withdraw from target.

© Alamy, Getty

THE ANCIENT OLYMPICS

The origins of these spirited events revealed

Written by David Stuttard



DAVID STUTTARD

David is a writer, lecturer, dramaturg and author of *Power Games: Ritual And Rivalry At The Ancient Greek Olympics* – a book focusing on the 416 BCE Olympic games. His biography of Alcibiades, from Harvard University Press, hits the shelves in Spring 2018.

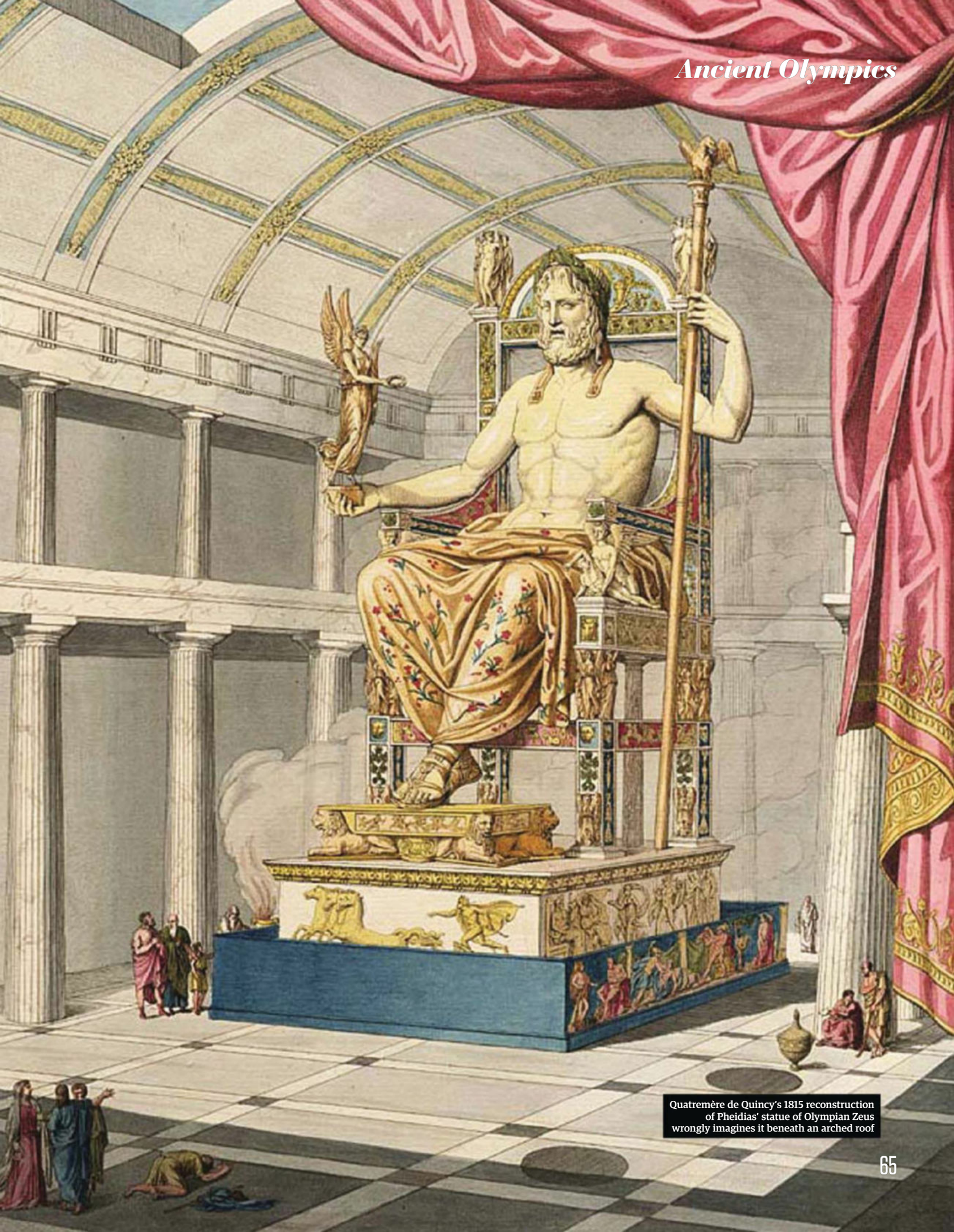
THE FESTIVAL

Every four years from 776 BCE to around 425, competitors and spectators flocked to a sanctuary in southern Greece to participate in one of the most extraordinary events of the ancient world. It was a festival in honour of Zeus, king of the gods, who ruled from the snow-capped peaks of Mount Olympus far to the north. Indeed, it was from Olympian Zeus that the location of the sanctuary was named: Olympia.

The festival had humble origins. In its early years, participants came mainly from Elis, the city just under 65 kilometres away that controlled the sanctuary. On the morning following the August full moon, they sang hymns, chanted prayers, and sacrificed oxen to Zeus, burning the bones and fat on the altar as an offering before cooking the meat for that evening's banquet. As the mouth-watering aromas filled the air, many of those present made their way a little to the east, stripped down to their loincloths – only from 720 BCE were competitors naked – and, while the rest looked on, raced back to the finishing line near the altar. The distance, around 180 metres, was called in Greek a 'stade', the origin of our word 'stadium'. In 30 seconds the race was over, and in 776 BCE the winner was proclaimed. He was a local baker called Coroebus, that year's only victor, for the foot race was the only contest. The Olympic Games began as one Olympic game.

So it remained for two generations, but from 724 BCE other events were introduced, and the reputation of the festival began to spread. Coincidentally, this was a time of new beginnings for the Greeks, as many mainland cities sent shiploads of citizens to plant new settlements in foreign lands from Marseilles in the west to Byzantium in the east, and from Cyrene in Libya to Epidamnus in modern Albania. As the Greek footprint expanded, Greeks felt a growing need to maintain, or create, a cultural identity. The 5th century BCE historian Herodotus writes that what united them was "kinship in blood and speech, the shrines of gods, the sacrifices that we have in common, and the similarity of our lifestyle". He might have added 'competitiveness', because inspiring almost every Greek was the advice given to Achilles in the *Iliad*, a poem like the Olympics with its roots in the 8th century BCE: "Always to be best and to surpass all others".

As the *Iliad*, with its tales of bravery culminating in funeral games for Patroclus, was



Quatremère de Quincy's 1815 reconstruction of Pheidias' statue of Olympian Zeus wrongly imagines it beneath an arched roof



Devotees of the most brutal of sport, pancratists break the rules forbidding biting and eye-gouging

"Olympia was now attracting not just athletes but the rich and influential"

fuelling the Greeks' imagination, the setting where they could locate themselves as the true heirs of the heroes of the Trojan War was fast becoming recognised as Olympia and, although other sports-related festivals sprang up – notably at Delphi, Corinth and Nemea – the Olympics reigned supreme. By the 6th century BCE, competitors were arriving from all over the Greek world and, when in the early 5th century mainland Greeks successfully fought off the Persian invasions while Sicilian Greeks defeated the Carthaginians and Etruscans, it was at Olympia that they made offerings of thanks.

As the festival's status grew, the Games expanded to cover five days. At the same time, new opportunities to display power through sacrifice and banquets meant that Olympia was now attracting not just athletes but the rich and influential as well as kings and politicians eager to strut the international stage, hold high-level conferences and negotiate high-profile deals. Many were keen to compete in the chariot race, the Games' most expensive event. Among them was Alexander I, King of Macedon, whose people many considered not to be pure Greeks. In 504 BCE, he successfully proved his eligibility by tracing his ancestors back to the Peloponnesian city of Argos. Almost a century later in 416 BCE, the Athenian playboy politician Alcibiades too used the Olympic chariot race to proclaim his wealth and power by entering an unrivalled seven teams. Unsurprisingly he won, and to celebrate he entertained the spectators to a banquet, paid for in part by his wealthy backers from the Aegean islands of Chios and Lesbos.

Meanwhile, as the numbers of attendees swelled, others were attracted, too: not just merchants hoping to make valuable sales, but writers such as Herodotus, who read his *Histories* from the portico of Zeus' temple; artists such as Zeuxis, the inventor of trompe l'oeil, who wafted round Olympia in a cloak advertising his name in golden letters; and poets like the praise-singer Pindar, eager to win commissions from victorious athletes. Although the far-seeing orator Isocrates used the panhellenic gathering to make heartfelt pleas for Greek unity in the face of strong aggressors, they fell on deaf ears. At the battle of Chaeronea in 338 BCE, Philip II of Macedon defeated the mainland Greek states and marked his victory by erecting his 'Philippeion' – a round temple containing statues of himself and his family – at Olympia next to the Temple of Hera, wife of Zeus.

Under the Roman Empire the Olympics continued to thrive, though occasionally an emperor might bend the rules. In 67 CE, Nero not only rescheduled the Games to allow him to take part, he also tried to show his prowess by driving his own ten-horse chariot. But nothing went to plan. His biographer Suetonius records: "He fell from his chariot and was helped back in, but he could not continue and gave up before the end. Even so he won the victor's crown."

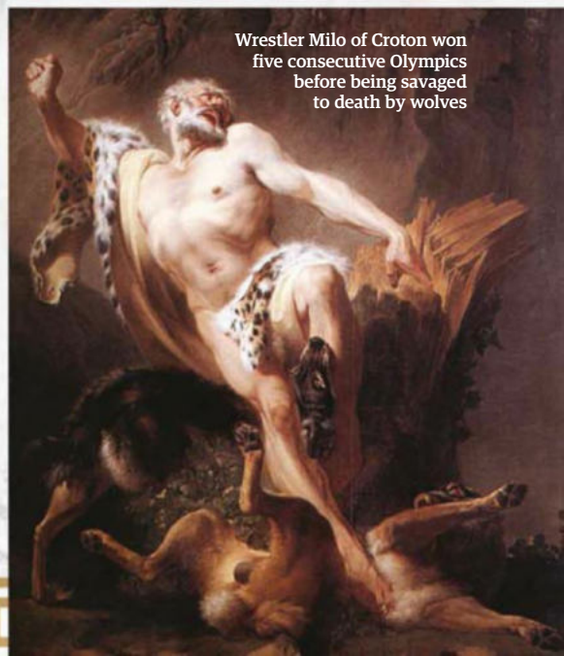
At last Christianity put paid to the Olympic Festival. After all, it was in honour of a pagan god. Outlawed in 391 by the Christian Emperor Theodosius, the Olympics struggled on for another 30 years, but by 425 the Games were no more.

Mythology

All classical accounts of the Olympics' origins involved mythology. Some maintained that it was at Olympia that Zeus defeated his father Cronus and assumed control of gods and mortals. Others claimed that Heracles established the first Games to celebrate his victory over the local King Augeas, who had refused to pay the hero for one of his twelve labours, cleansing the royal stables.

Still others disagreed. For them, the founder of the Games was Pelops, an Ionian prince from Phocaea (modern Foça in Turkey). Learning that the wealthy Greek King Oenomaeus was offering his daughter, Hippodamia, in marriage to whomever beat him in a chariot race, Pelops was determined to win. Even though he possessed a team of magical horses, a gift from the god Poseidon, he took no chances. He bribed the chariot technician, Myrtilus, to remove the lynch pins from Oenomaeus' wheels and substitute them with wax replicas. As the wheels rotated ever faster, the friction made these lynch pins melt; the chariot collapsed and Oenomaeus was dragged to an excruciating death. However, instead of honouring his side of the agreement (to let Myrtilus sleep with Hippodamia), Pelops threw him off a cliff. But Myrtilus' ghost haunted Pelops, and the only way he could appease it was by performing funeral games – the first Olympic Games.

The influence of all three foundation myths were felt at Olympia. Dominating the Altis was a magnificent Temple of Zeus, within whose incense-laden inner chamber was a stunning statue of the seated god wearing the olive crown, awarded to victorious athletes. Created in a specially built onsite workshop by the Athenian sculptor Pheidias, it was 12 metres high and faced in gold and ivory, the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World located on Greek soil. Such was its numinous beauty that even the 2nd century Stoic philosopher Epictetus enthused that "people would consider it a great misfortune to die without ever seeing



Wrestler Milo of Croton won five consecutive Olympics before being savaged to death by wolves

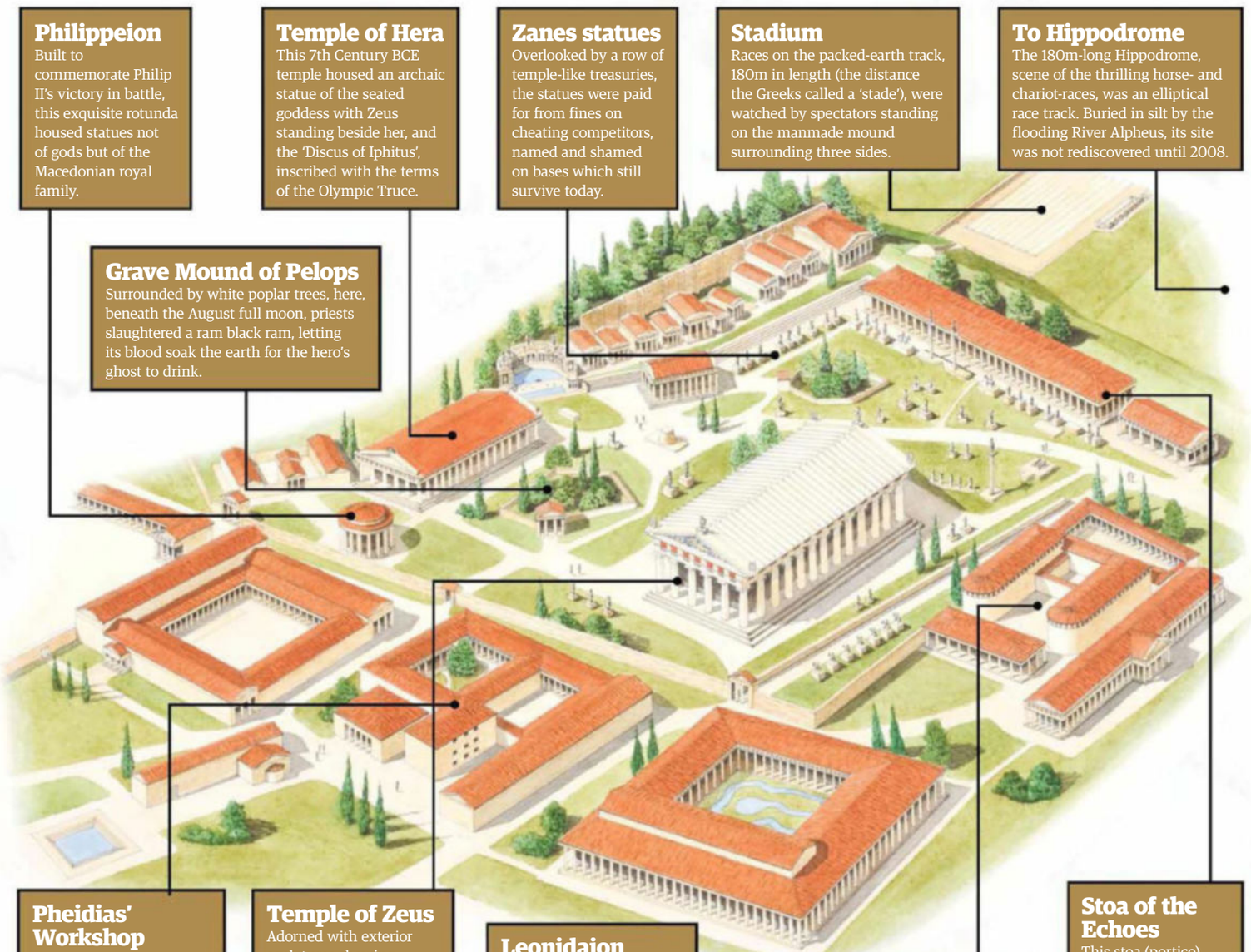
it". Transported to Constantinople by rapacious Romans, the statue was destroyed by fire in 462, but we can still appreciate its power: Byzantine iconographers used it as their model for the face of God.

Meanwhile, a stone's throw from Zeus' temple to the north, Pelops' grave-mound was the site of one of the festival's most solemn ceremonies, when a black ram was sacrificed to the dead hero, while Heracles, said to be the first to make this sacrifice, was praised for something altogether more prosaic. Legend told that thanks to his sacrifice to the very specifically named Zeus Who-Banishes-Flies, Zeus Apomuios, he caused Olympia to be fly-free.

Spectators had good reason to be thankful, especially since the Games were celebrated in the scorching heat of August, when conditions could be horrendous. For the five days surrounding the new moon, those tens of thousands of spectators, who could not afford to stay at the Leonidaion – a 'hotel' built by a far-sighted entrepreneur in 360 BCE – pitched tents or slept rough outside the sanctuary with little running water and no sanitation, a jostling mêlée of increasingly rank bodies. For some, such as Epictetus, the abiding memory was "the sunburn and the filth... the cacophony, the din, the jostling, the shoving, the crowding, and so many people, each absorbed in doing his own thing". However, even he

THE SANCTUARY OF OLYMPIA IN THE 2ND CENTURY

Bristling with statues of victorious athletes, Olympia was dominated by the marble-roofed Temple of Zeus. Beyond Pelops' grave-mound, the original wooden columns of the Temple of Hera (700 BCE) were gradually replaced in stone, while to the northeast the stadium was separated from the sanctuary by an artificial rise.



Philippeion
Built to commemorate Philip II's victory in battle, this exquisite rotunda housed statues not of gods but of the Macedonian royal family.

Temple of Hera
This 7th Century BCE temple housed an archaic statue of the seated goddess with Zeus standing beside her, and the 'Discus of Iphitus', inscribed with the terms of the Olympic Truce.

Zanes statues
Overlooked by a row of temple-like treasuries, the statues were paid for from fines on cheating competitors, named and shamed on bases which still survive today.

Stadium
Races on the packed-earth track, 180m in length (the distance the Greeks called a 'stade'), were watched by spectators standing on the manmade mound surrounding three sides.

To Hippodrome
The 180m-long Hippodrome, scene of the thrilling horse- and chariot-races, was an elliptical race track. Buried in silt by the flooding River Alpheus, its site was not rediscovered until 2008.

Grave Mound of Pelops
Surrounded by white poplar trees, here, beneath the August full moon, priests slaughtered a ram black ram, letting its blood soak the earth for the hero's ghost to drink.

Pheidias' Workshop
An exact replica of the interior of Zeus' Temple (save for the addition of windows), Pheidias created the god's gold and ivory sculpture here before assembling it in situ.

Temple of Zeus
Adorned with exterior sculptures showing mythological scenes, the temple housed a 12m-high seated statue of Zeus faced in gold and ivory, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Leonidaion
73m square and constructed between 330 and 320 BCE by Leonidas of Naxos, this proto-hotel featured a central courtyard with fragrant shrubs and splashing fountains.

Bouleuterion
In this complex of two apsidal buildings flanking central chamber with a colonnaded frontage, the Olympic Council met, presided over by a forbidding statue of Zeus Horkios ('Zeus, Oath God').

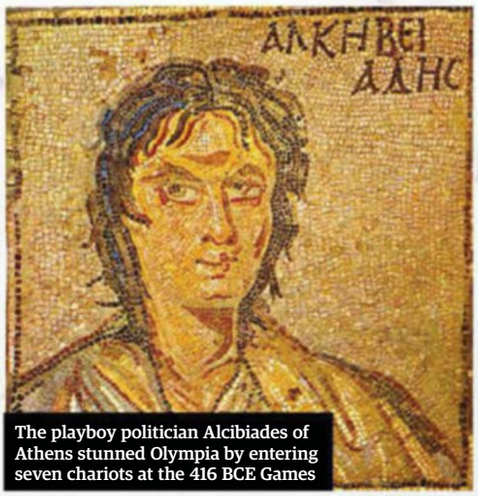
Stoa of the Echoes
This stoa (portico), 90m long, was begun in the mid 4th Century BCE. Excellent acoustics made it the ideal setting for contests between trumpeters.

admitted: "I think you're happy to put up with all of this when you think of the splendour of the spectacles."

Athletes

Being a masculine religious festival in honour of dead heroes and the great god Zeus, women, with the one exception of the Priestess of Demeter, were forbidden to attend the Games – though a parallel four-yearly women's festival was held at Olympia in honour of the goddess Hera. Gender was not the only restriction. No convicted murderer could enter unless they had first undergone a lengthy purification ritual and all participants were required to speak fluent Greek. Theoretically, any free man could take part, irrespective of social status. Indeed, the flamboyant Alcibiades refused to participate in any sport except chariot racing, the preserve of the rich, because it would mean competing with people of a lower class.

The only other category involved age. There were a handful of contests for boys: boxing, wrestling, the 'stade' race, and – for one year only in 628 BCE – the pentathlon. For every other competition, athletes had to be be adults over 20. A month before the Games began, all were required to gather at Elis, the city that controlled the Festival. Here, they were compelled to train and compete in initial heats under the stern watch of the Hellanodikai ('Judges of the Greeks'), while decisions were made about who should compete in which event.



The playboy politician Alcibiades of Athens stunned Olympia by entering seven chariots at the 416 BCE Games


The Philippeion, commemorating Philip II's victory over Greece, housed statues of Macedon's royal family

It was now, too, that age categories were decided, something that without supporting documentation could be very sensitive. Sometimes, judgements were controversial. In 468 BCE, Pherias of Aegina was prevented from taking part in the men's wrestling because he looked too young. Another contestant, Nicasylos of Rhodes, was so well-developed that he was made to wrestle as an adult even though he was only 18. He won his match, as well as others elsewhere, but so brutal were the contests that he died at 20.

It was participants in contact sports who attracted the greatest interest and controversy. Perhaps the most famous was the wrestler Milo, victorious at five successive Olympics over 20 years. Stories about his strength were numerous, and when a neighbouring city attacked his hometown of Croton in south Italy, Milo dressed in a lion skin and strode out to meet them wielding a club. Believing him to be Heracles reincarnated, the invaders fled. Even Milo's death was sensational. The travel writer Pausanias reports that "somewhere in the Crotonian

From the first ancient Olympics to the first modern Games

776 BCE – The first recorded Olympic Festival is held. The only contest, the stade race, is won by a local baker, Coroebus of Elis.

724 BCE – A second contest, the diaulos, is introduced, heralding a flurry of new events, including the pentathlon and wrestling (708 BCE), chariot racing (680 BCE) and horse racing (648 BCE).



720 BCE – After Orisippus of Megara won the stade race at the previous games, 'losing' his loincloth as he ran, athletes begin to compete naked, possibly believing that nudity made them faster.

564 BCE – Arrhichion of Phigalia wins the pankration despite being dead: his opponent, in pain from a dislocated toe, gives up just before Arrhachion dies from strangulation.

458 BCE – Local architect Libon's Temple of Zeus is completed, paid for from the spoils of war against a neighbouring city-state, and adorned with sculptures showing Pelops, Apollo and Heracles.

430 BCE – Pheidias of Athens (who also designed the Parthenon) completes his 13-metre tall seated statue of Zeus, faced in gold and ivory, carrying Winged Victory in its outstretched hand.



416 BCE – Alcibiades of Athens appropriates the Games for his personal aggrandisement, entering a record seven chariots and treating all the spectators to a banquet.

"ANY FREE MAN COULD TAKE PART, IRRESPECTIVE OF SOCIAL STATUS"

territory he came across a tree of dry wood split open and held with wedges. Milo decided to put his hands inside the tree, but the wedges slipped and he was held fast. Then the wolves found him. These beasts are particularly abundant in the territory of Croton..."

But it was a boxer who first brought the Games into disrepute. All participants were required to meet in the Olympic Council Building to swear an oath over the dismembered body of a boar that they would not cheat. However, in 388 BCE, Eupolus of Thessaly was found to have bribed three opponents. The Hellanodikai fined all four men and with the money set up four statues of Zeus, the so-called Zanēs, on the path down to the stadium, with inscriptions naming and shaming the guilty parties. The bases of 16 such Zanēs can still be seen today.

A more coveted memorial was awarded to the winner of the stade race. Individual cities were usually named each year after their chief magistrate, often leading to confusion for anyone trying to compile more regional chronologies. In the late 5th century BCE, the philosopher Hippias of Elis, wishing to create a universal dating system, invented a solution. He named 776 BCE 'the year of the first Olympiad, when Coroebus of Elis won the stade', 772 BCE 'the year of the first Olympiad, when Antimachus of Elis won the stade', and so on, with the intervening years numbered accordingly 'the second, third and forth year of the Olympiad'. His system was accepted. From then on, the Greeks effectively began their historical era with the first Olympiad, and the winner of the Olympic 'stade' race and his city were immortalised throughout the Greek-speaking world.

EVENTS

Although the stade was the first competitive event, after the introduction of the diaulos in 724 BCE others followed swiftly. Mostly these were of three types, the first being running: stade, diaulos, dolichos (4.5 kilometres), and a stade race in armour. The second consisted of trials of strength: boxing, wrestling, pancration (a deadly combination of barbaric brawling and bare-knuckle fight), as well as throwing the javelin and discus, with the third comprising equestrian sports: horse races and races for two-, four- and ten-horse chariots as well as a mule-cart races.

In addition, the pentathlon combined elements of both strength and speed. Once they were introduced, some events, such as the stade race, lasted for the entire life of the Games. Others, such as the mule-cart race, were quietly dropped.

Unlike at other international festivals, such as the Pythian Games held at Delphi in honour of Apollo or the Panathenaic Festival at Athens, the Olympics contained no formal cultural or artistic element. But there were two curious contests that had little to do with sporting prowess. Introduced in 396 BCE, the competitions for trumpeters and heralds became particularly popular when they found a new home in a colonnade built after the stadium was relocated more than 80 metres to the east of the Temple of Zeus. The acoustic of this so-called Stoa of the Echoes caused any sound to reverberate no less than seven times.

One event conspicuous for its absence is the marathon, which was inspired by an ancient Greek athletic feat. In 490 BCE, the runner Pheidippides raced to bring the news of the Greek victory over the Persians from Marathon to Athens, a distance of just over 46 kilometres. The race was created for the first modern Olympics of 1896, held not at Olympia but in Athens, the new capital of a proudly independent Greece. It marked the dawn of a modern Olympic era, secular games that would be largely unrecognisable to Greece's classical forefathers, not least because of their ethos. Where previously athletes had striven 'always to be best', now, as their new founder Baron de Coubertin proclaimed: 'What is important in life is not to triumph, but to take part; what is essential is not to have won, but to have fought well'.



Dressed in trademark long flowing robes, a charioteer urges on his four-horse team

© Getty Images

388 BCE – Scandal mars Pisodorus of Rhodes' win in the boys' boxing match when his trainer is found to be a woman – his mother, who narrowly escapes execution as punishment for attending.



356 BCE – Philip II of Macedon learns of his chariot victory and the birth of his son, Alexander the Great, on the same day. His later Philippeion commemorates his defeat of Greece.

164 BCE – Leonidas of Rhodes wins the stade, diaulos and hoplitodromos races, a feat he repeats in the next two Olympics. His record nine wins is broken only in 2016 by Michael Phelps.

40 CE – Caligula tries to remove the statue of Zeus to Rome, but his workmen refuse to continue when they hear unearthly groans emanating from inside it.



67 CE – Nero builds a palace and triumphal arch near the hippodrome, 'winning' the ten-horse chariot race despite falling out and failing to complete the course.

391 – With Christianity now the religion of imperial Rome, Emperor Theodosius bans all pagan worship, but the Olympic Games probably continue in some form until 425.

462 – The statue of Zeus, removed to a patrician's palace in Constantinople in 390, is destroyed by fire, but it has already inspired Byzantine artists' impressions of the face of God.



1896 – Inspired by the ancient Games, English public schools and Shropshire's Much Wenlock Olympics, Pierre de Coubertin organises the first modern Olympics in Athens. The Greek Spyros Louis wins the marathon.

Bluffer's Guide ITALY, 22-31 OCTOBER 1922

Mussolini's March on Rome



Did you know?

Mussolini's marchers were armed with whatever they could find, including muskets, golf clubs, table legs and even dried fish!

Timeline

15 MAY 1921



Mussolini is elected to parliament. Although his Fascist Party only comes fourth, his supporters include violent groups intent on seizing power by force.

24 OCT 1922



Mussolini declares "Our program is simple: we want to rule Italy" before 60,000 supporters at the Fascist Congress in Naples.

27 OCT 1922



A ragtag army of 26,000 fascists assemble from across Italy but halts 30km from Rome. Prime Minister Luigi Facta declares a state of siege.

28 OCT 1922



The king refuses to sign the order and Facta resigns. Mussolini is sent a telegram requesting he forms a new coalition government.

What was it?

In 1922, Benito Mussolini's National Fascist Party was a minority group with just 35 seats in parliament. The fascists were too impatient to build democratic support or form coalitions with other parties. Instead, they simply organised a demonstration of 26,000 fascists and marched on Rome to overturn the liberal government by force. If the military had been ordered to intervene, Mussolini's ragtag army would certainly have been decisively defeated. But King Victor Emmanuel III balked at the idea, fearing that Italy would be thrown into civil war. His refusal caused the prime minister to resign in disgust and allowed Mussolini to enter Rome unopposed.

Mussolini would later exaggerate the march into a heroic coup, claiming that 3,000 people were killed. In fact, there were only a dozen deaths, and the king handed power to Mussolini voluntarily and quite constitutionally. Mussolini himself didn't even participate in the march, apart from posing for a few photographs. He remained safe in Milan until success was certain and then travelled comfortably to Rome on the train.

Why did it happen?

The fascists were formed from Italian army veterans of WWI. Italy had fought on the side of the Allies and the fascists felt that Italy had been deprived of territory that rightfully belonged to it following the Armistice. Mussolini was a socialist as a young man, but with the outbreak of WWI he became convinced that national identity was more important than class struggle.

After the war, Mussolini's blackshirts were involved in violent clashes with communists, socialists and anarchists, but the blackshirts were tolerated because the liberal government was more afraid of a communist revolution. This emboldened the fascists and the party leaders increasingly called for an outright coup. Mussolini was more ambivalent about the idea but with each political rally, the desire for action within the party grew stronger and Mussolini was forced to swim with the current. It wasn't until he was securely in power that he began transforming Italy into a dictatorship.

Who was involved?



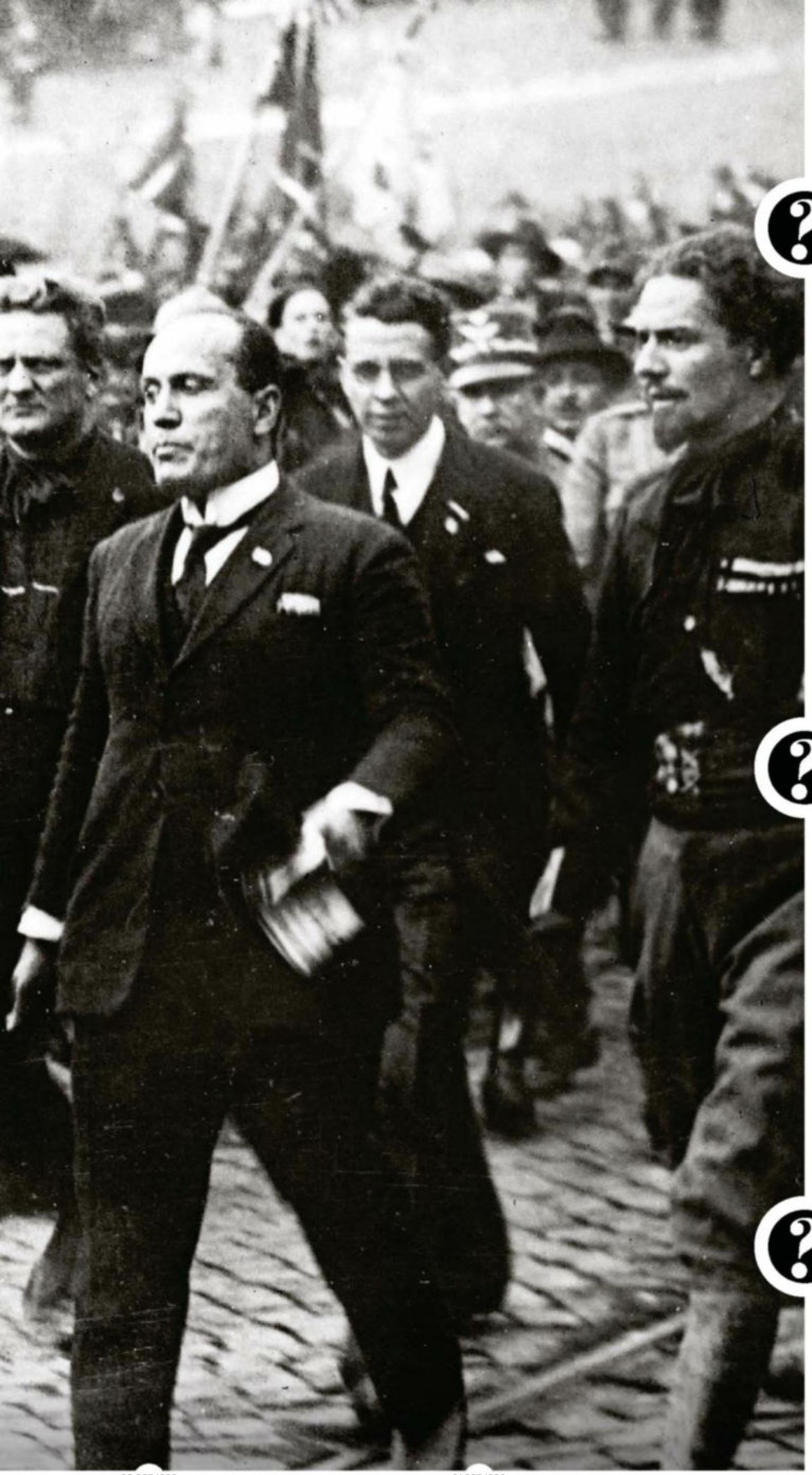
Benito Mussolini
29 July 1883 – 28 April 1945
Known as 'Il Duce' (The Leader), Mussolini founded the fascist movement in Italy and was its ruler for 20 years.



Luigi Facta
16 November 1861 – 5 November 1930
A liberal MP for 30 years. He was prime minister of Italy for just 8 months before Mussolini took over.



King Victor Emmanuel III
11 November 1869 – 28 December 1947
His reign included both World Wars. He invited Mussolini to become prime minister rather than risk a military confrontation.



30 OCT 1922



Mussolini arrives in Rome on the sleeper train from Milan and has his first cabinet meeting in a suite at the Savoy Hotel.

31 OCT 1922



The fascist marchers parade triumphantly through Rome, giving the impression of a successful coup even though power has been handed over peacefully.

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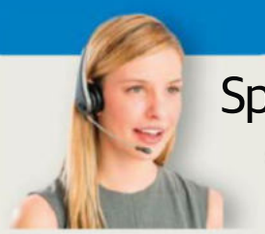
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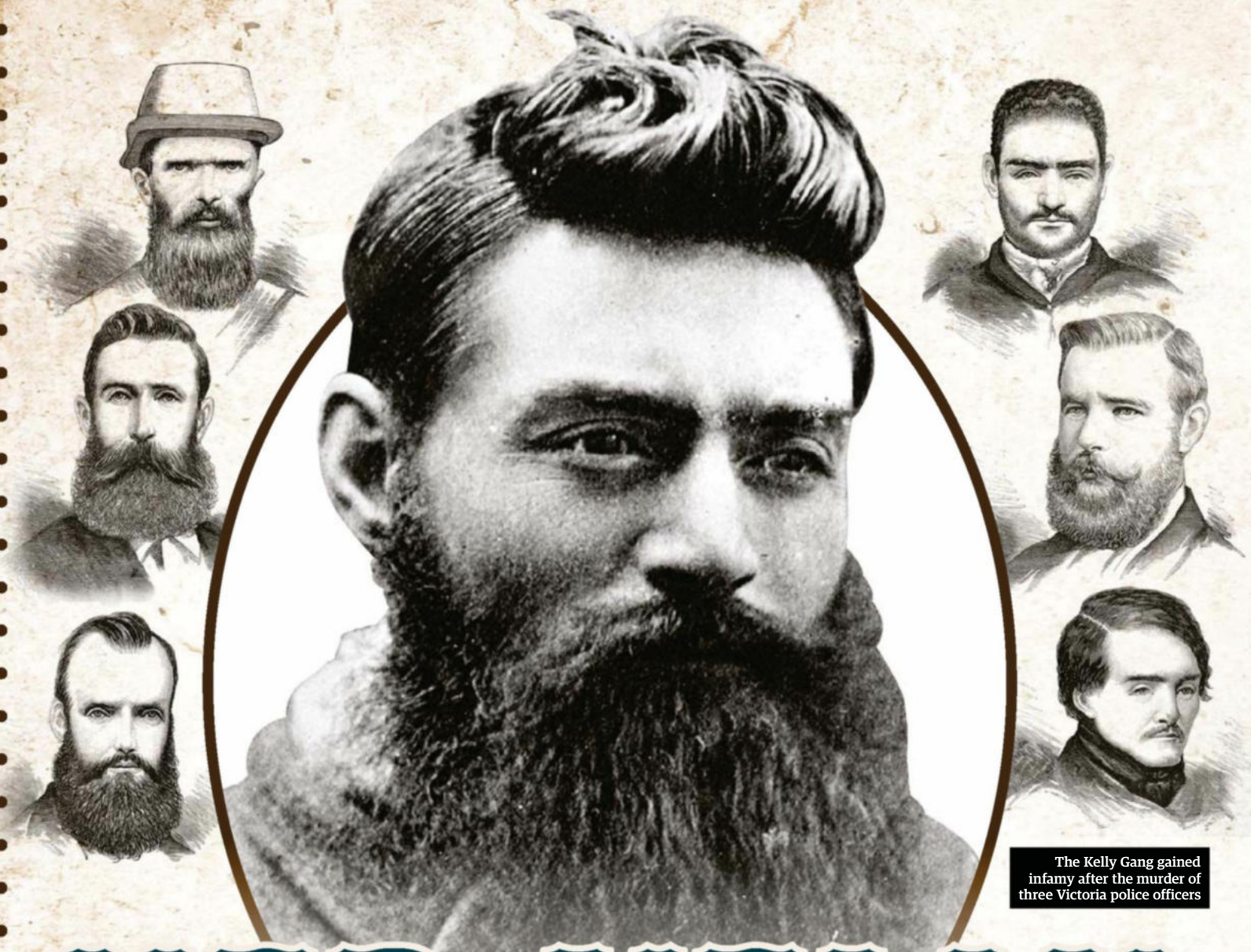
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The Kelly Gang gained infamy after the murder of three Victoria police officers

NED KELLY

ROBBER OR REVOLUTIONARY?

He's a national hero to some, a cunning crook to others – why is Australia so divided over one of its most enduring icons?

Written by Ben Biggs

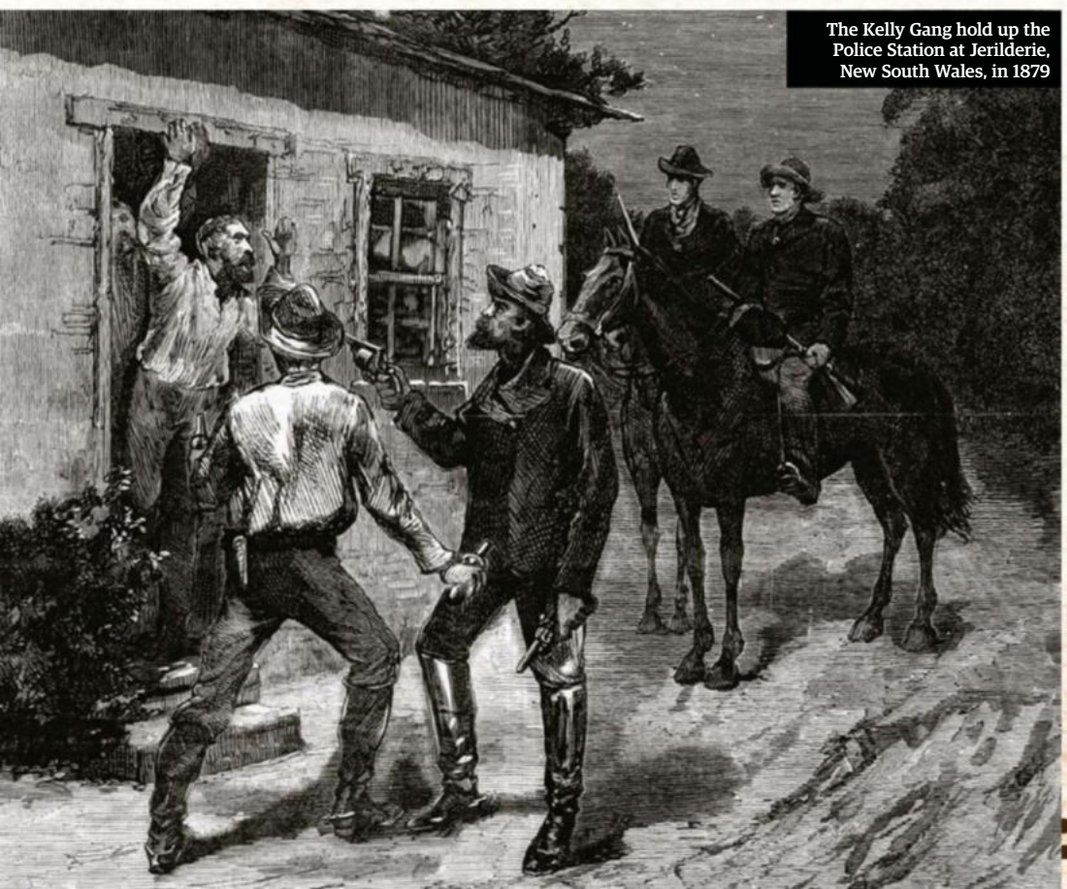
Around 240 kilometres northeast of the city of Melbourne, Victoria, is the township of Greta. It's tree-lined, pastoral and, without closely inspecting a photo of the country surrounding Eleven Mile Creek, you could convince someone that it was the ancestral Irish homelands of some of its 250-odd population. Beyond the road leading through Greta there's a faded "Keep Out!" sign above a sturdy barbed-wire fence and, beyond that, nothing to speak of save more rolling pasture on a wooded backdrop, what looks like the rusted hubs of an ancient cart wheel and a solitary red brick chimney.

This is Kelly country. Despite looking like a fresh breeze would topple it into the dirt, this vestige of a homestead is actually a palace, its original owner – Edward 'Ned' Kelly – a prince of thieves Down Under, and the mythology surrounding his exploits every bit a jewel in Australia's cultural crown. Keen to preserve this monument, Ned's descendants have erected fences to keep tourists with busy hands from finishing the job the elements and gravity started nearly 150 years ago. And who can blame them when there are few such tangible truths to their ancestor's story left today? Where England takes its romanticised, 1,000-year-old Robin Hood story with a pinch of salt and no small amount of Kevin Costner, for many Australians Ned Kelly was a bone fide revolutionary who exploded from his humble Selector community in 1878 to defy the corruption of the colonial authorities. For others, he was a dyed-in-the-wool thief, a thug, a killer, an egotist manipulative enough to have spun his own legend to ensure its survival for many generations.

The early part of Ned's history is less divisive. His father, John 'Red' Kelly, was an Irishman who, in 1841 and at the age of 22, was convicted of stealing two pigs and transported to Tasmania. He made the crossing to Victoria in 1848 and ultimately settled with his new wife, Ellen, in the small town of Avenel. Red was a cattle rustler of note who had brushes with the law until his undoing in 1866. Unable to account for a suspicious pile of meat and hide in his possession, Red was given six months of hard labour because he couldn't afford the fine. This brutal sentence would break the 55 year old.

Red didn't separate his home life from his criminal career and young Ned was witness to his father's lawless acquaintances through his formative years. At just ten years old he would have seen the police take Red away from the family, only for his father to die shortly after he was released in December 1866. It's not hard to imagine how, unchecked, this could instil in a wily young man an anti-authoritarian sentiment and the willingness to live outside society. The apple wasn't to fall far from the tree and Ned Kelly was cast in the mould of a future outlaw. Whether or not he was born bad is moot at this point – the draconian penalties of the colonies had set Red Kelly's oldest son on a bitter collision course with the law.

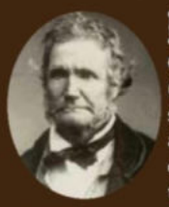
"HE WAS A DYED-IN-THE-WOOL THIEF, A THUG, A KILLER"



The Kelly Gang hold up the Police Station at Jerilderie, New South Wales, in 1879

BANDITS IN THE BUSH

Escaped convicts who turned to crime in the outback became known as 'bushrangers'



MARTIN CASH

Cash was sent from Ireland (County Cork) for shooting at someone in a jealous rage. He arrived in Australia in 1828, embarked on a crime spree and then, unbelievably, reformed. He became a police constable in 1859.



"WILD COLONIAL BOY"

50 years before Ned Kelly's capture, Jack Donohoe was setting the mold for Australia's bushrangers. His gang of English and Irish convicts robbed from the rich and sold to the poor. He became a legend in Kelly's time and songs were sung about him by the Kelly Gang before their final showdown with the police.



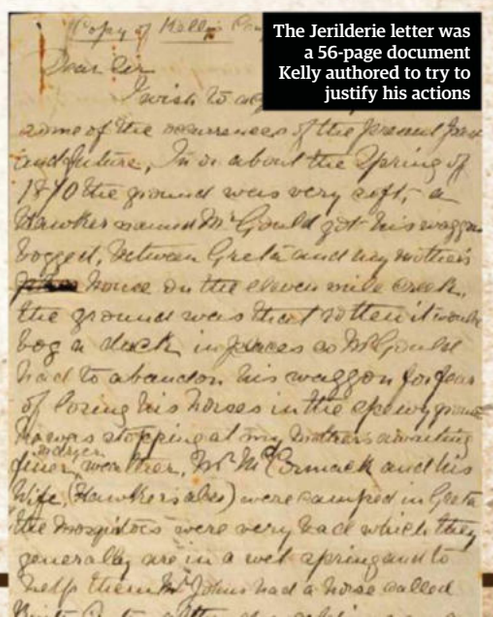
BLACK DOUGLAS

In 1851, Australia experienced its own gold rush with hundreds of prospectors descending on Victoria. A crime wave ensued and a tracker known as Black Douglas made a brisk trade of fleecing laden fortune seekers of the gold left in their tents near the gold field.



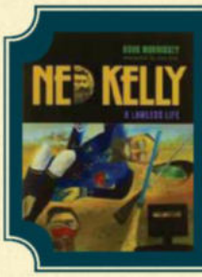
'MAD DOG' MORGAN

Dan Morgan's criminal motivations seemed to run to violence for the sake of it as much as profit. He was known for murdering on a whim and had similar anti-authoritarian sentiments to Kelly.



The Jerilderie letter was a 56-page document Kelly authored to try to justify his actions

VILLAIN



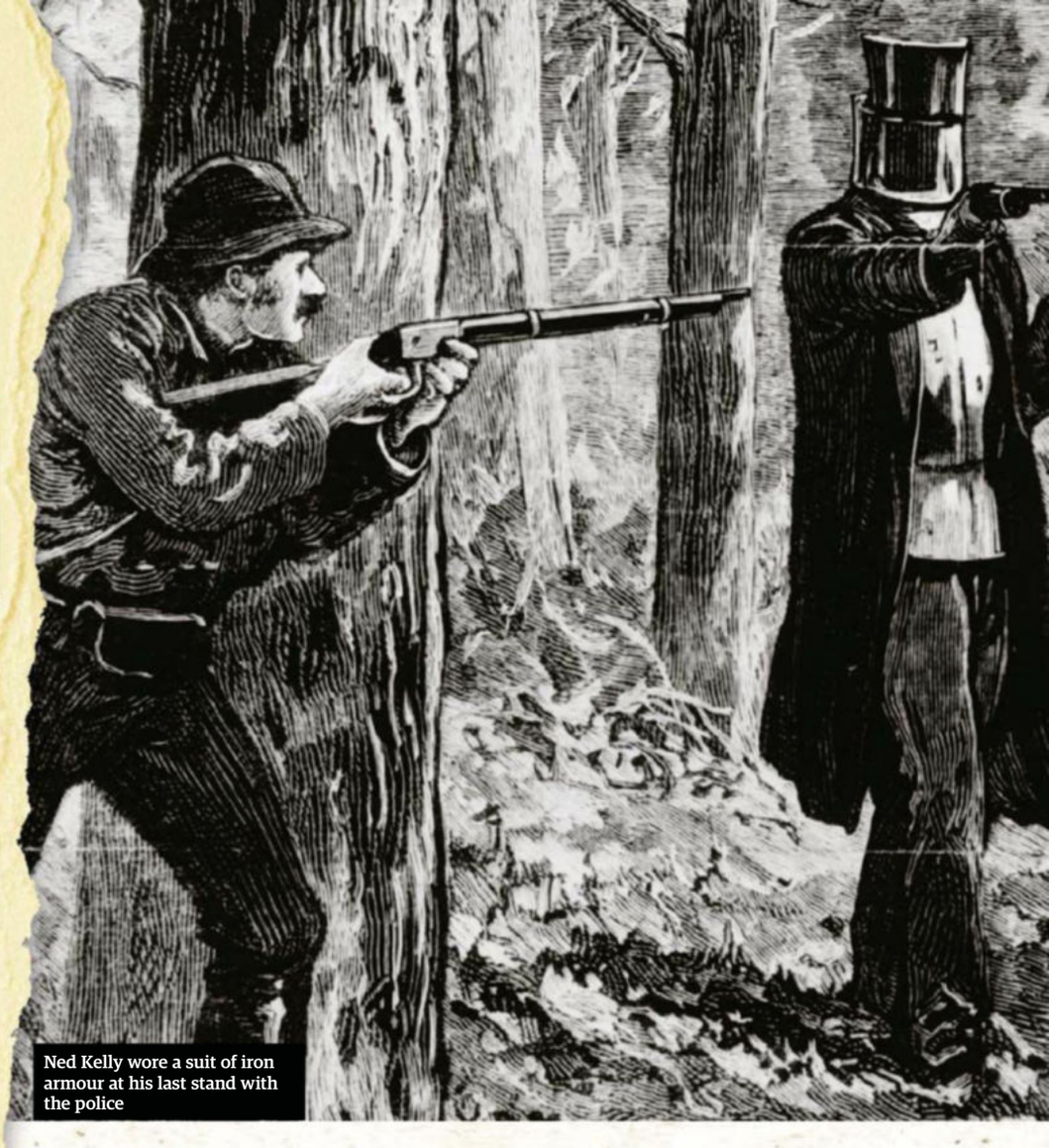
DOUG MORRISSEY

Writer, historian and iconoclast Doug Morrissey is author of *Ned Kelly: A Lawless Life*, a criticism of the "whitewashing of the bushranger's criminal action". It's available from Connor Court Publishing and on Amazon, and was shortlisted in 2016 for the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Australian History.

"When you look closely at the history and motives involved, Ned Kelly damns himself by his actions and the wordsmiths find no fault. Kelly was a violent, narcissistic career criminal who bullied those around him and would listen to no counsel but his own. He committed murder and, if his grisly Glenrowan plan had succeeded as he had hoped, he would have been a mass murderer. That he is today regarded as a hero by so many has much to do with Kelly myth spin and fantasy. The Kelly myth version of history is not what it used to be — there are plenty of Australians who crave the truth and see Ned as a horse thief and killer, no more no less. However, the myth fascinates the Australian imagination and Ned is seen as an iconic Aussie hero when, really, he deserves neither accolade.

"The Kelly myth began in Ned's own lifetime. He was a good publicist for his own cause and he played the 'gentleman' bushranger role to the hilt. Despite the public's enchantment with 'Ned the bad boy with a gun', he was still regarded as a murderer and a criminal by his contemporaries. It was only after WWII that authors enamoured of the Kelly legend began writing about him as a political revolutionary and people's champion. This was when the idea of a Republic of North East Victoria came into its own — something that had no currency during Ned's lifetime. The evidence for all of this exists only in the fantasy-filled brains of Kelly's later admirers, who have misinterpreted his motivations and have little understanding of the Greta community or the pioneering times in which Kelly lived. Ned's 'bravery' was not as the public and media today choose to see it. He had run out of bank robbery money and was out of options, badly wounded and perhaps a little drunk, he took on the police in a last ditch desperation to end a bushranger's life he tells us he had grown tired of. He had always said the police would not take him alive; but when he was wounded and lying on the ground, he pleaded for his life to be spared.

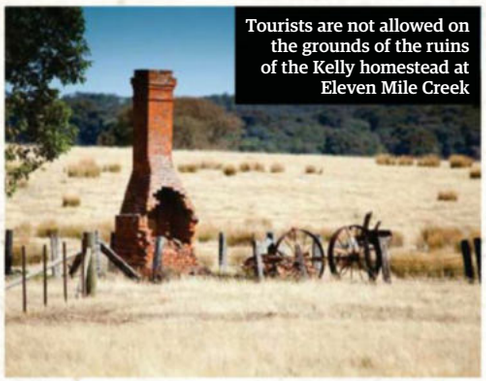
"The comparison to Robin Hood definitely does not measure up to the historical reality. Ned robbed banks to obtain money for protection, shelter and food. There was never any distribution of funds outside his criminal circle and the destruction of bank records was more for show than an effective release from debt for poor farmers. The books, television series, movies and so forth all perpetuate the myth, and people enjoy a version of history where goodies and baddies battle one another. The question, as always, is how do you decide who are the goodies and who are the baddies involved? In Ned's case, the answer is simple: he lived a lawless life as a criminal predator and never apologised for the murder and mayhem he caused. Is this the kind of celebrity folk hero Australians and the world should be celebrating?"



Ned Kelly wore a suit of iron armour at his last stand with the police

Over the next ten years, before he had thoroughly burned his bridges with two Australian colonies, Ned built up a criminal curriculum vitae that seemed to put him under a cloud of suspicion for so much as setting foot outside his homestead. From the age of 14 until his mid-20s, he was responsible for numerous counts of robbery in Victoria and New South Wales. Kelly trail-blazed muggings, horse-thievery and acts of violence on either side of the border, finding a nemesis (and others say at first, a friend) in local policeman Alexander Fitzpatrick. After apparently shooting the constable in the wrist when he came to arrest his brother Dan, he turned outlaw by fleeing into the Bush and Australian mythology.

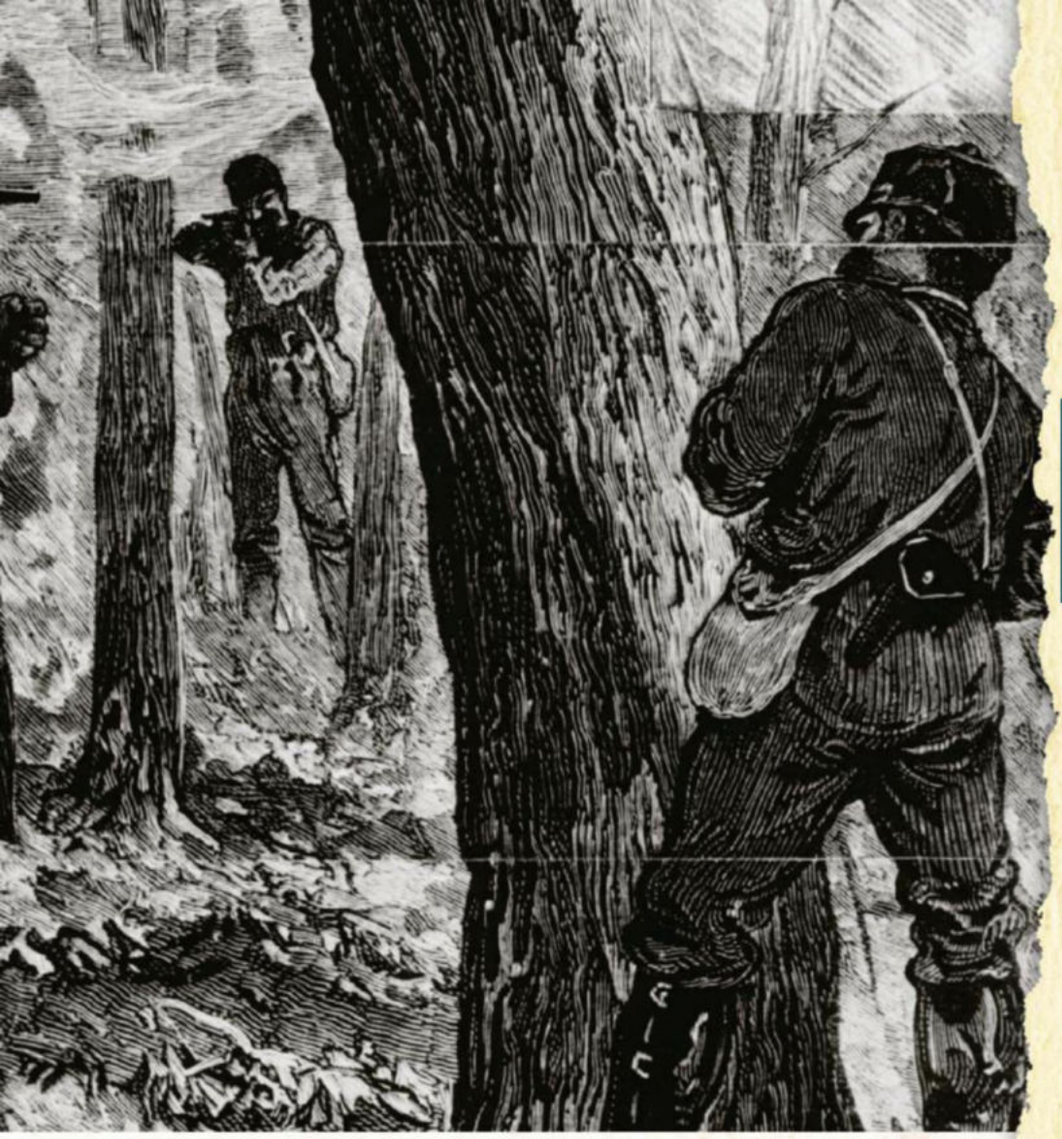
Ned always seems to have had some excuse or justification for his crimes. When he was caught in possession of a stolen horse he was looking after for Isaiah Wright, he claimed he didn't know it was stolen. The subsequent brawl with the arresting policeman landed him three years in Pentridge Prison, which included a three-month stretch in a stinking prison hulk. Having taken the fall for someone else's crime, this was a matter of honour that required settling as far as hot-headed Ned was concerned, and he insisted on a boxing match with Wright, which Ned won, of course.



Tourists are not allowed on the grounds of the ruins of the Kelly homestead at Eleven Mile Creek

There was an alternative version of events to the assault on constable Fitzpatrick, too. Kelly said he wasn't even present when the policeman came to his homestead drunk and threatened his mother. According to Kelly, a brawl had ensued with Dan Kelly in which Fitzpatrick hurt himself on a protruding door lock. The constable took a beating and took off, then said he had been set upon by the Kelly brothers and that the wound to his wrist was from a bullet. It was an argument that would have saved Fitzpatrick face, as well as his career.

"Had I robbed, plundered, ravished and murdered everything I met," Ned Kelly wrote in a letter to Fitzpatrick's superior and Victorian parliamentarian Donald Cameron once he had



HERO

BRAD WEBB

Brad Webb is a writer and webmaster of ironoutlaw.com, a dedicated Ned Kelly website that has been around in various forms since the dawn of the Internet. Attracting over 350,000 visitors a year, it has become a valuable resource for anyone wanting to find out information about the Ned Kelly gang.



Do you think Ned Kelly's name has been maligned over the years?

Ned made a number of enemies during his short 25 years. Land barons, police, and judiciary were keen to hold Ned and his type at bay. Even after he was convicted of murder, the presiding judge, Sir Redmond Barry, refused Ned's barrister's plea for an appeal to the Full Court, an outrageous travesty of natural justice. It is the Royal Commission which is possibly Ned Kelly's greatest legacy — Ned was an outspoken critic in the way the police conducted themselves not only in the pursuit of the Kelly Gang, but in the way they manhandled the entirety of northeast Victoria. The findings from the Royal Commission created a tradition of public accountability and self-examination, which still exists within the Victorian police force today, and it helped lay the foundation of what is arguably one of the world's best police forces.

Did he always have the support of the Greta community?

Greta, like many small towns located throughout northeast Victoria, primarily consisted of poor selectors. The Kelly clan was no exception. Like other families in the district, they relied on each other for support and friendship. Selectors faced resistance and outright hostility from squatters who used their superior economic position to manipulate the system, ensuring they retained control of the best land along rivers and creeks — known as 'peacocking.' It took the government many years to realise the system was ineffective and for conditions to improve. Meanwhile, a generation of selectors grew up with a precarious toehold in the colony's productive life and a history of antagonism. It was against this backdrop that the Kelly outbreak evolved.

Why has Ned Kelly become such a powerful icon for many Australians?

After Ned's execution, the dominant, anti-Kelly literature portrayed a ruthless criminal, while the image of a popular hero was kept alive in oral tradition and folk songs. Then, some 50 years after Ned's death, 'the tide of the published word turned' and Ned Kelly was seen in a more sympathetic light. First of the major pro-Kelly works was JJ Kenneally's *The Complete Inner History of The Kelly Gang and Their Pursuers*, published in 1929 and rarely out of print for the next 50 years. Each week, on average, there is a newspaper story published somewhere in the world with Ned Kelly as the topic. Ned has nearly 11 million pieces of information available online through a single Google search. He has been commemorated through music, words, paintings and film. More books, songs, and websites have been written about the Kelly Gang than any other group of Australian historical figures. And when you add the wide variety of Kellyana to the amalgam — such as clothing, toys, alcohol, tattoos and so on — then Ned Kelly truly is Australia's greatest folk hero.

"KELLY TRAIL-BLAZED MUGGINGS, HORSE-THIEVERY AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE VICTORIA/NEW SOUTH WALES BORDER"

fled the authorities, "my character could not be painted blacker than it as present, thank God my conscience is as clear as the snow in Peru." At least of the sullied Kelly name and Ned's absence of guilt, we can be fairly sure.

In the famous Cameron letter, Ned painstakingly outlines his grievances with a police force hell-bent on bringing him down, that they "use to be blowing that they would shoot me first and then cry surrender", and that while he was on the run "they used to repeatedly rush into the house, revolver in hand, and upset milk dishes, empty the flour out onto the ground, break tins of eggs, throw the mat out of the cask onto the floor, and dirty and destroy all the provisions, which can be proved; and shove the girls in front of them into the rooms like dogs and abuse and insult them".

In the same letter, Ned explains his version of a pivotal event, remembered as the infamous Stringybark Creek murders of three policemen



The State Library of Victoria made painstaking efforts to collect and assemble pieces of Kelly's armour



The Kelly Gang ambushed four policemen in the Stringbark Creek murders



Kelly's death mask, a mould of the bushranger's features taken after his death – a common practice in the Victorian era

"THE FOUR MEN COMPLETELY DROPPED OFF THE GRID, MAKING CAMP IN THE BUSH NEAR THE KELLY HOMESTEAD"

on 26 October 1878. We know for sure that Ned and three others – Dan Kelly, Joe Byrne and Steve Hart – caught a party of policemen, sent to capture the gang, off-guard in their camp. Of the four policemen, three died – namely Michael Kennedy, Thomas Lonigan and Michael Scanlan – while the other, Thomas McIntyre, escaped to tell the tale. Ned's account reads like the script of a lone ranger film, giving the men the opportunity to surrender and taking life only when he felt that his own was threatened. "I gave him my word I would give them a chance," he told McIntyre as the four outlaws awaited the return of the other two policemen. And, when he killed Kennedy: "I put his cloak over him and left him as honourable as I could, and if they were my own brothers I could not be more sorry for them."

The three dead men were of Irish descent. It's possible Kelly would indeed have felt he had some connection with them, although McIntyre didn't seem to think so: "...like a great many young bushmen he prided himself more on his Australian birth than he did upon his extraction from any particular race. A favourite expression of his was: 'I will let them see what one native can do'." We begin to see how Ned Kelly became an icon for a new nation.

After Stringybark Creek, in early 1879, it seems the four outlaws had committed themselves to other serious crimes. They robbed two banks, stealing gold, silver, sovereigns and promissory notes to the tune of several thousand pounds, around 1 million Australian dollars today. The reward money for the capture of the Ned Kelly Gang sky-rocketed to £4,000 in New South Wales – or £1,000 for any one of the outlaws – with a further £4,000 offered by the state of Victoria. The four men completely dropped off the grid, making camp in the Bush near the Kelly homestead at Eleven Mile Creek while the police patrolled the towns, unable to match the rangers' bushcraft and uncomfortable at the thought of straying too far into unfamiliar territory after the Stringybark incident. After a year of half-hearted attempts to track Ned and his gang down, locals had lost confidence and respect for the police.

By June 1880, the handsome rewards had been withdrawn and the gang's status as outlaws expired, though they were under no illusion that they would be free citizens. Bolstered by their previous encounters with the police, they decided to rob the banks in Benalla, Victoria, but would first shoot dead an informant under police protection as a distraction. They dispatched Aaron Sherritt and disarmed the four police protecting him with ease, then made their way to Glenrowan with the intention of destroying the rail lines to prevent reinforcements from arriving. Little did they know, this would also be the end of the line for the gang.

The most famous of Ned Kelly relics, a helmet and suit of armour, are housed in the State Library of Victoria. They are likely to endure far longer than the blood-stained green sash he was awarded as a boy aged 11, when he saved seven-year-old Richard Shelton from drowning in Hughes Creek, and which he wore underneath his metal suit at his last stand at Glenrowan. The symbolism here is palpable, depending on which camp you fall into: he's a boyhood hero clad in either the armour of his own righteous indignation or of an iron-cold murderer. Even Ned's intent behind the armour, if not the siege and gunfight at Mrs Jones' Hotel in Glenrowan where he wore it, is subject to considerable degrees of interpretation. The plates covered just about every part of the men's torsos and heads back to front with iron impenetrable to police gunfire – but not their legs. It seems an obvious weak spot, and that's just how Ned Kelly was stopped: with a hail of bullets to his



Ned Kelly was badly bruised after using his homemade suit of armour

lower limbs. Was the armour intended to protect them from a gun fight on the level playing field in town or, as some suspect, from survivors defending themselves in the train wreck that never happened, from an eyrie high above in the railway cutting?

With police and militia closing in, the Kelly Gang threw a party to put the hostages they took at Mrs Jones's Hotel in Glenrowan – including some sympathisers – at ease. The rudiments of a Kelly following had begun and there were some supporters of his even among the townsfolk. But whatever revolution he might have had planned, this was the Kelly gang's last stand. After the police and militia lay siege to the hotel, three of them lay dead and only Ned survived. After the bullet wounds to his legs were patched up, he was put on trial, defiant right up until the hangman's noose stretched his neck. A petition, signed by over 30,000 (some say coerced) supporters, was submitted to the governor of Victoria, but to no avail. Judge Sir Redmond Barry donned the death cap and that was the end of it – but not before Kelly had the last word. Apparently, when judge Barry uttered the words that should have sunk the temerity of the condemned man, Ned was said to reply: "May God have mercy on your soul. I will go a little further than that and say I will see you there when I go."

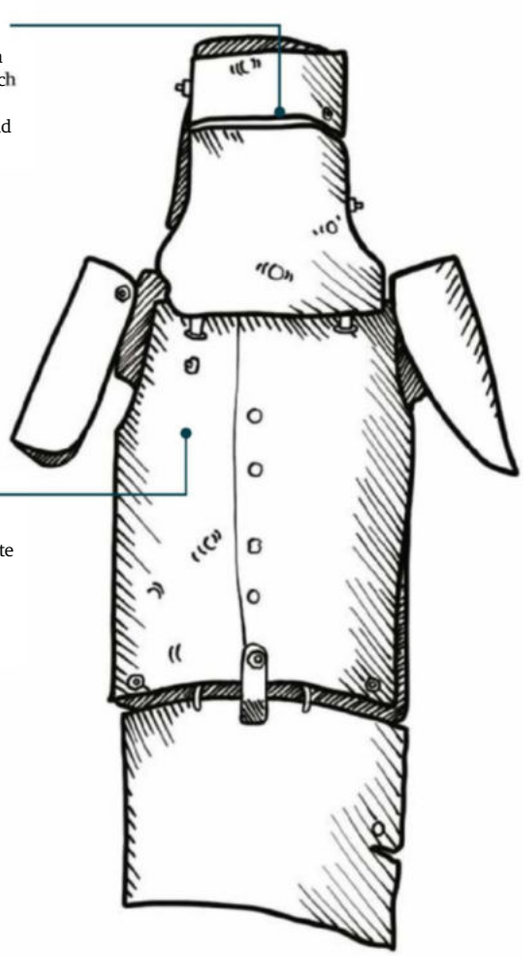
The hero or villain argument is a subjective one to say the least, especially when extrapolating black and white from the grey mists of 19th century Australia. Ned Kelly certainly did some bad things and he likely did some of them with less than the altruism that is to be expected of a hero – though it's very likely that the authorities he railed against were no better than him. As the remains of the truth crumble away, brick by brick, over time, we are left with a folk tale that is familiar in every corner of the world. The martyred revolutionary is a popular totem – and who knows what form Ned Kelly will take years and centuries from now?

IRON OUTLAWS

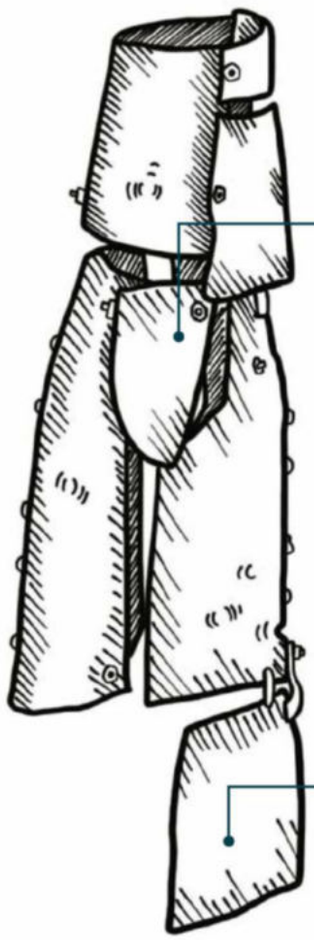
How effective were the Kelly gang's suits of armour?

Forged from mouldboards, the thick metal parts of a plough, it took some time and a little volunteer help from Kelly sympathisers to put the four suits of armour of the Kelly gang together. Even then, they would have had to learn how to move and shoot in it. It was a hefty 41.4 kilograms – or as much as a bag of wheat – and half as much as Ned Kelly weighed again. It would have slowed him down significantly and also made accurate shooting near impossible. However, even at point-blank range it proved impenetrable to a bullet fired from a Martini-Henry rifle. So, despite remonstrations from the rest of the gang, once the armour had been put to the test, they were quickly won round. Ned also armed the gang with sawn-off Winchester repeater rifles (the famous gun that 'won the West' in the US), the rapid fire compensating for the handicap of the armour. The gang would also have to learn how to wear it, to take advantage of their newly bulletproof bodies and unlearn old gunslinging habits made impractical or impossible by the wall of metal they would be wearing around them.

Helmet
The helmet had a visor – a thin slit in the front – which put a big restriction on the gang's peripheral vision and shooting accuracy.



Vital organs
Covering the men's torso back to front, the chest plate also provided an anchor for the the shoulder plates and helmet, attached with leather straps and rivets.



Shoulders
Plates protected the men just over the shoulder. They would not be protected from a bullet to the hand.

Exposed
A plate hung to protect Kelly's groin, but the legs were left unprotected. Why this was seems a point of some contention.

© Alamy, Getty Images.



HISTORY ON THE FRONTLINE

Deborah Lipstadt's fight against distortions of the Holocaust was recreated in the recent film *Denial*, but the war against falsehood is only just beginning

Written by James Hoare

It's something of an irony that Professor Deborah Lipstadt was forced to cross her own line. Tasked to chart the evolution of a fringe belief she had previously disregarded as a crackpot irrelevance, Lipstadt's effort – *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory* (1993) – remains a seminal text in understanding not just the poisonous evolution of Holocaust denial, but offers a template for dissecting all manner of historical distortion.

Throughout the book, Lipstadt explains her refusal to directly engage with Holocaust deniers, to take part in broadcast debates and normalise lies by treating them as a position in an argument that should be based on good faith and truth. The British military historian-turned-far right demagogue David Irving had other ideas, challenging the accusation that he was a Holocaust denier in court. By making Lipstadt the subject of a libel case in the UK rather than her native US, the burden of proof was shifted to the accused and Lipstadt was forced to break the habit of a lifetime.

She had to engage or else, she says in her broad Queens accent, "unleash a Pandora's box of horrors". If she had settled or brushed it off, as some encouraged her to do rather than give Irving and his creed a platform, "he would have been able to claim that his version of the Holocaust was valid. I had no choice but to fight this guy".

This bruising gladiatorial bout between truth and deception at the High Court is the subject of the recent film *Denial*. Though Lipstadt emerged victorious and Irving was shorn of his phantom respectability and cast into the wilderness, he had forced her into exactly the sort of confrontation she had been resolute about avoiding. "It was difficult because as an academic, as a historian, I do my own work. I do my research, I figure out what I'm going to write, I write it, maybe I have a research assistant to help me but the work is mine – I don't depend on someone else," explains Lipstadt.

"Here I was having to depend on other people. Thank God, they were great people and they were tremendously committed to this. They were at the top of their game, [solicitor] Anthony Julius and [lawyer] Richard Rampton, they don't come better than that, so I was entrusting my quote-unquote fate in the courtroom to tremendously talented people. But that still was difficult."

If Irving could claim another pyrrhic victory, it's this: after Lipstadt finished *Denying the Holocaust*, she thought she was done with the whole torrid subject. Irving not only pulled her back in, but has ensured the forthright academic has remained on the frontline ever since. Not just against Holocaust denial and what she calls "soft denial", rhetorical attempts to undermine the unique Jewish aspect of the Holocaust, but against any abuses of history.

The words themselves may have the appearance of neologisms, but 'alternative facts' and 'fake news' are nothing new – you can see their fingerprints on the anti-Semitic 'stab in the back' myth that steered Germany toward National Socialism, or the crude innuendo swirling around Grigori Rasputin that helped steer the creaking Russian Empire toward revolution. The rise of populist anti-establishment politics in both Europe and North



In *Denial*, Irving is played by Timothy Spall and Lipstadt by Rachel Weisz







Irving sued Lipstadt for libel after she published that he was a Holocaust denier



Deborah Lipstadt and her team on their way to court, January 2000





America, however, has seen many of the tropes she identified in *Denying the Holocaust* cross over into the mainstream, cluttering up social media and populist press with their distorted reimaginings of the slave trade, the crusades and the world wars.

"We see it over and over again," agrees Lipstadt. "And by the way, we see it from the right and we see it from the left, we see it on both sides. We see it with [former London mayor] Ken Livingstone and his attempt to tie Zionists with Nazis and say, you know, 'The Nazis trained Zionists etc' which is all bunk, complete bunk, based on one commercial contract that the German Zionist Organisation had with the Nazis from August '33. From that Ken Livingstone builds a whole panoply of charges which just are not true.

"Then you get [French presidential candidate] Marine le Pen – yes she lost, but she got 35% of the votes so she's not going away so fast – who a couple of weeks before the election said that France had nothing to do with the roundups [of Jews] in the summer of 1942. When you look at the images you only see French officers, French policemen. So you have this denial from the right, and this changing of the facts from the left. It's open season on facts."

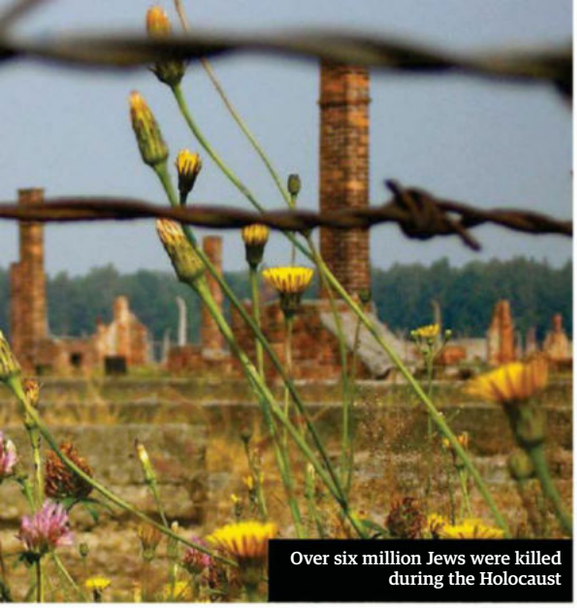
For Lipstadt, it's vital that historians play a role in this fight, just as she did when David Irving gloated "that more women died on the back seat of Senator Edward Kennedy's car at Chappaquiddick than ever died in a gas chamber at Auschwitz". "Given the current attack on facts, given the blatant way in which facts are changeable, deniable, ignorable, whatever simile you want to use, it's incumbent on academics in general, and in particular historians, to become public intellectuals. When I was starting my career anybody who wrote op-eds, anybody who was active speaking with reporters and all that was sort of disdained as not being serious academics. But the fact of the matter is that we can no longer afford that.

> "You have denial from the right, and this changing of facts from the left. It's open season on facts"
> ***Deborah Lipstadt***

"I think historians, whatever their field, if there's something that applies to what they do, they have to speak out. They have to be very careful to not speak out in a partisan fashion so that what they have to say can be dismissed or discounted as partisanship. Whether they're against Trump or for Brexit, or opposed to Brexit, whichever it may be, it's very important that now more than ever historians speak out.

"Not everyone is capable of doing it. Some fine scholars, fine historians, aren't built for that kind of battle but if they know the facts, they know the truth so that when Ken Livingstone plays with your history – and I don't care what your personal political outlook is – when he takes your history and twists it for his own political purposes, or Marine le Pen takes the history and twists it, no-one has more credibility on this than historians."

Part of the problem, however, is that historians can counter distortions of history but it's the distortion that leads the agenda – the lie takes centre stage in a headline or soundbyte while the truth follows in its shadow. Could it be that if historians want to win the fight, they have to lead the discussion? For example, when a city in the Southern US moves in on its memorials to Confederate generals, should historians get in front of that before their sober interjections become lost in the politically charged

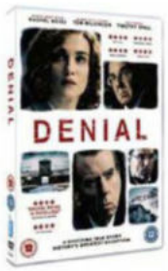


Over six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust



back and forth? "I think it's important," agrees Lipstadt. "You have to be careful because you don't want to shoot your wad, as they say in gambling – or use all your ammunition – in getting too far ahead, but I think you're right. Sometimes as soon as the issue comes up, as soon as the mayor of the New Orleans begins talking about taking down those statues let's be reminded by the historians who those were statues of. Yes, Robert E Lee was a Confederate general and was very much respected, but what was he defending? He was defending the Confederacy which was enslaving people. Some of those statues were of people who didn't have as much credit as Robert E Lee did, you know?

"We're in a crisis mode, I would say, not just because of my country but in your country, the UK as well, in many places where facts are up for grabs. Facts don't count, they're twisted and when it comes to history historians can play a very important role. They have special credibility, and they have to use it."



Denial is out now on DVD from EntertainmentOne

HOW TO SPOT BAD HISTORY

None of these are proof of bad history in themselves, but together they are cause for alarm

1. WHO WROTE IT?

Find the name of the author and see what else they've written. If they're a historian, you should be able to tell whether they're credible relatively quickly from their academic paper trail online. If they're a journalist or writer, look at what outlets they're associated with and what sort of content they have written in the past. Be on the lookout for anything that suggests they have a clear agenda. If there's no author credited, be suspicious.

2. HOW IS IT WRITTEN?

Plenty of popular history uses informal or emotive language (and even historical fiction can be impeccably researched) so it's not an automatic cause for alarm, but be mindful of anachronistic language that betrays a modern agenda, such as reference to modern countries or concepts, sweeping generalisations or selective empathy where only one side is allowed emotions or motivations.

3. WHERE IS IT WRITTEN?

What sort of magazine or website is this? Is its primary purpose to entertain or to educate, or communicate something far more sinister? Much popular history and historical fiction is impeccably researched so entertainment doesn't necessarily mean something is incorrect (we aim to entertain *and* educate, after all), but it depends on a the context. Lists of amazing facts are often far more amazing than they are factual.

4. WHAT ARE THE SOURCES?

Are the sources named or linked to? Follow those back and assess how credible they are and how recent they are. At All About History, History of War and History of Royals, we insist on source lists from all of our contributors. We don't publish them in the magazine, but we're more than happy to supply them on request.

5. IS IT TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

It probably is. Image accounts and memes often focus on a 'hook' at the expense of research – the real world is seldom so convenient as to fit on a 300x300 jpeg. Many 'amazing historical image' social accounts scrape their content from other viral accounts, perpetuating falsehood and making it difficult to track the sources.

What if...

The Allies had lost the Battle of the Atlantic?

Professor Marc Milner has spent 35 years studying the Atlantic war. We ask him what might have happened had Germany emerged victorious

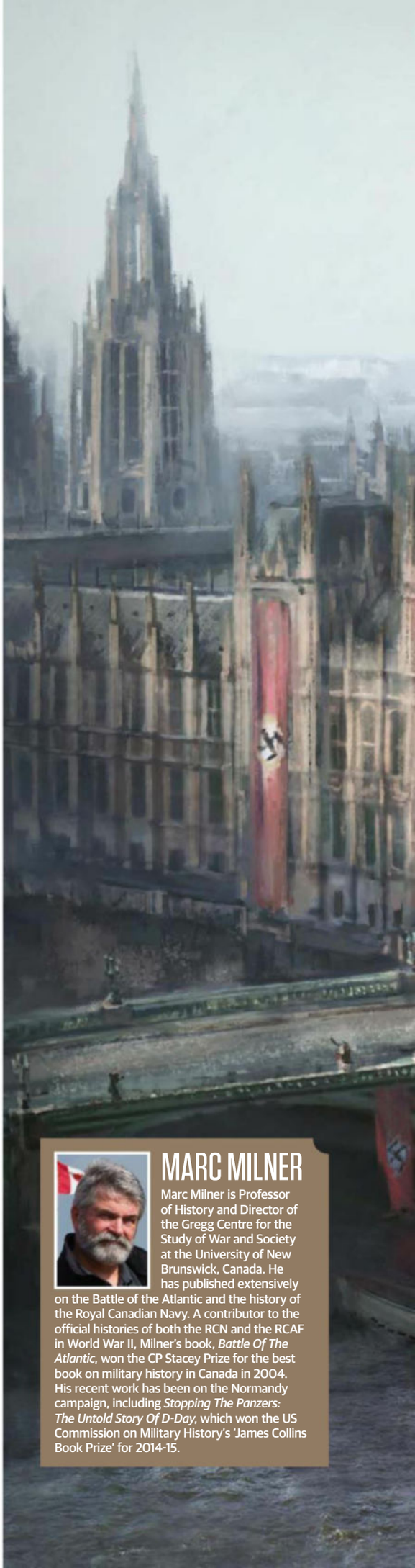
What if the Allies had lost the Battle of the Atlantic?
Britain would not have been able to carry on its war effort for very long. In 1939, Britain was dependent for at least half of its food imported from overseas, so it would have been in a very serious situation in this regard. Also, Britain's economy in 1939-40 is pretty much export-based, so to survive economically it needed to import raw material and export finished goods. It would have been virtually impossible for Britain to survive if it had not been able to use the sea. The Germans reached the French coast in the summer, so Britain would have that year's harvest.

If the Germans had put the squeeze on Britain in the winter of 1940-41, which they tried to do, I think it would have been just a matter of weeks, perhaps months, before the British government would have had to make a decision about accommodating German requests. I don't see a great surge of Germans coming across the English Channel, at least not initially, because the Germans could not have launched an invasion at the same time they were trying to do an effective blockade of Britain. The big question for the British would have been, apart from accommodating Hitler's wishes and succumbing to the pressure, the extent to which it would have been an occupied country. That would certainly have been an interesting situation.

How would it have been possible for the Germans to have won the war in the Atlantic?
Most people tell me that if the Germans had had 300 U-boats in 1939 they would have won the Battle of the Atlantic. My response is always that if the Germans had had 300 U-boats, the Brits would have had 250 destroyers, sloops and frigates. You can't change one variable and expect the others to remain unchanged. The Brits built for the threat – Germany's surface fleet. The rest could be – and was – improvised in a time of crisis. Simply put: the Germans could never have won the Battle of the Atlantic, but Britain could have lost it.

The greatest threat to imports in 1940-41 was the bombing and closure of key British ports and that's a Luftwaffe responsibility, nothing to do with the Kriegsmarine. Many historians make a facile and erroneous link between import decline and sinkings at sea in this period, but it's just not that simple. The Germans did not have the power in 1940-41 to inflict a knockout blow at sea. 'Death by a thousand cuts' was a more plausible scenario, but even that could not be done fast enough to ensure the death of the victim. The Germans are really the engine of the Atlantic War because if the Germans don't do anything, the Allies win. It is just that simple.

So if Germany were to have won the war in the Atlantic, it would have been in the winter of 1941 when Britain was standing alone in Europe?
Yes. Someone said that Britain had 500 million people around the world backing it up, but it really is the little Dutch boy with his finger in the dyke in the winter of 1941. That's the only moment when the Germans have a clear, measurable, obtainable objective in the Atlantic War – and that is to blockade Britain and force it to surrender. But the problem for the Germans is that they don't have the resources to do it. One of the biggest impacts on British imports in the winter of 1940-41 is the Blitz. Most people don't associate that with the Battle of the Atlantic, but the bombing and closure of ports along the English south and east coasts promptly cuts into British imports far more



MARC MILNER

Marc Milner is Professor of History and Director of the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick, Canada. He has published extensively on the Battle of the Atlantic and the history of the Royal Canadian Navy. A contributor to the official histories of both the RCN and the RCAF in World War II, Milner's book, *Battle Of The Atlantic*, won the CP Stacey Prize for the best book on military history in Canada in 2004. His recent work has been on the Normandy campaign, including *Stopping The Panzers: The Untold Story Of D-Day*, which won the US Commission on Military History's 'James Collins Book Prize' for 2014-15.

What if...

THE ALLIES HAD LOST THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC?



What if Nazi Germany had won the Battle of Atlantic and invaded Britain?

© Ian Hinley



Allied tanker Dixie Arrow torpedoed by U-71 in 1942

than anything that is done at sea because all of a sudden the major import harbours are closed and they have to reorient longshoremen and rolling stock and railways and the handling gear to the West Country ports, and that takes almost a year to do. The net result is a sharp decline in imports to Britain – they just don't have the port handling capability. But Germany does not have enough submarines. In January 1941 there are only eight German submarines at sea that are operational. You can't win the Battle of the Atlantic with eight submarines. The Germans pushed out as many surface vessels as they possibly could.

It is a very dangerous period for Britain in the winter of 1941 because Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, the two big battlecruisers, are loose in the North Atlantic. [Admiral] Hipper and Admiral Scheer are out in the North Atlantic. There are long-range Condors and Blohm & Voss flying-boats doing patrols. Some of the Condors are attacking shipping at sea, particularly in the east Atlantic. The Germans are beginning to use U-boat wolf packs and achieve some dramatic successes. But it's never quite enough. They spent the winter of 1941 pulling the lion's tail and tweaking its ears, but when the fair weather of spring comes in April and May and they send Bismarck out, it is a totally changed operational environment.

If Britain had succumbed, could America have found another staging post for its entrance into the war in Europe?

Yes. In 1942 the Allies invade French North Africa, and the landings along the Moroccan coast are staged directly from the US eastern seaboard as part of Operation Torch. So the way back into Europe would have been, in some ways, the way that NATO subsequently planned to get back into Europe should Western Europe and Great Britain fall to the Soviet Union. That is to work their way through North Africa and then eventually through the Iberian Peninsula.

Presumably, though, without Britain as an ally, America might not have declared war on Germany in December 1941?

From what we know of the Americans in 1939-41, it is not clear whether they might have made an accommodation with the new regime in Europe and lived with it. America had not begun to mobilise, seriously, by the summer of 1941. It was still building up its fleet and the infrastructure for the huge army that would appear in Europe in 1944. It is just not in place at this time, so I think America would have had to make a serious decision. My best guess – and it can be no more than that – is that they would have made an accommodation with Nazi Europe and made every effort to make sure that Britain was as far as they got [on their westward expansion].

"The question becomes, does Britain capitulate, or does the British government go into exile and continue the war from the Empire and the Commonwealth?"

Comparing real and alternative scenario timelines

Real timeline

The outbreak of war
September 1939
Only 27 of Germany's 57 U-boats are capable of long-range Atlantic operations. Germany's Z-plan aims to build 300 U-boats, enough to strangle Britain. It takes a further 20 months to reach this tally.

Capture of French Atlantic ports
June 1940
U-boats now enjoy easy access to the eastern Atlantic. Despite the delineation of a neutral zone where American ships will sink marauding subs, the Germans soon extend operations to the central and western Atlantic.

Arctic operations begin
June 1941
When Britain begins running supplies of raw materials and finished hardware to Russian ports under the Lend-Lease deal, U-boats, shore-based aircraft and surface vessels commence operations in Arctic latitudes.

The Happy Time begins
December 1941
U-boats carry the war to America's eastern seaboard and enjoy huge success as the US Navy fails to organise effective convoys, resulting in the loss of thousands of tons of vital shipping.

Pearl Harbor attacked
December 1941
Carrier-based Japanese aircraft launch their surprise strike on the US Pacific Fleet. A day later, the United States declares war on Japan. Three days after this, the US declares war on Germany.

Alternate timeline

Z-plan hits target
June 1941
The Kriegsmarine beefs up production and hits its target of 300 U-boats, with most capable of long-range Atlantic voyages. The blockade of British ports puts enormous pressure on Churchill.

If Britain had fallen, do you think Churchill would have been able to continue fighting from bases in Canada and other parts of the Empire and Commonwealth?
Canada declared war against Nazi Germany, not as part of the British Empire but as an independent, self-governing nation. So it is entirely conceivable that the war would have continued. There were certainly plans to move the British fleet to Canada, and ports along the Canadian east coast were surveyed to see just where the Royal Navy could shelter. So the question becomes, does Britain capitulate like the French did and make accommodation, or does the British government go into exile and continue the war from the Empire and the Commonwealth? That would also change the situation for the Americans.

If Britain had fallen in 1941, how would that have affected Russian resistance to Nazi Germany?
The assumption is that Britain would have fallen in the spring of 1941 because it is difficult to figure the scenario before or after that. And by then Brits have already signed the Lend-Lease deal and are already trans-shipping vast amounts of goods destined for Britain like American fighters, P40-Warhawks and Tomahawks, straight to Russia. Britain is also sending a large number of its tanks to Russia in the autumn of 1941. I have read recently that perhaps as much as upwards of 40 per cent of the tanks that stand between the Germans and Moscow in the first week of December 1941 were Matildas and Valentine tanks from British factories. If that's the case, there is a very narrow window in which British production and Lend-Lease material, including Hurricane fighters, get to Russia just at the most critical moment of the German advance on Moscow. And many historians assume – though I don't know that it's a fair assumption – that had Moscow fallen, the Soviet Union would have capitulated. I am not entirely convinced of that but, if so, then the British aid to the Soviet Union in the autumn of 1941 might well have been one of the most singular, decisive things that Britain did to ensure the Allied victory in World War II.


German U-boat bases in France were hundreds of miles closer to the Atlantic than the bases on the North Sea

Stalingrad comes to an end
February 1943
Arguably the single most crucial battle of the European war concludes with Germany's defeat in the ruins of Stalingrad. Thousands of German troops become POWs.

The Longest Day
6 June 1944
Germany is stretched to breaking point as Allied forces, including a vast American army, launch D-Day operations with the invasion of Normandy.

Hitler commits suicide
April 1945
The war in Europe nears its end as Hitler takes his own life in his Berlin bunker shortly before the Red Army arrives. Unconditional surrender follows a week later on 7 May.

The US drops the bomb
August 1945
World War II nears its end after a B-29 bomber drops the world's first deployed atomic bomb on Hiroshima, destroying 90 per cent of the city and instantly killing 80,000 people.

Royal Navy moves to Canada/Ceylon
August 1941
Churchill relocates the Royal Navy to Halifax in Canada, and Trincomalee in Ceylon, the only Empire-Commonwealth ports capable of handling such warships.

The Allies take North Africa
November 1942
British Empire forces in Africa, supplied via the Suez Canal, have taken control of the continent. The invasion of Italy is planned.

Second Battle of Moscow
March 1943
The German Sixth Army takes Stalingrad and Hitler launches a second assault on Moscow. Yet Russia still stands.

D-Day launches via Iberian peninsula
June 1944
The Iberian peninsula becomes the staging post for the Allied push into Western Europe.

Britain falls to the Reich
November 1941
With food supplies dwindling and the U-boat wolf packs emerging pre-eminent in the Atlantic, the British government goes into exile to continue the war from the Empire.

The US declines Germany deal
December 1941
Roosevelt strongly considers negotiations with Nazi Germany, but pressure from Britain, Canada and Hitler's early success in Russia prompts him to enter the war in Europe.

D-Day preparations begin in earnest
January 1943
Operation Torch is no longer a requirement given Allied success in Africa. American GIs begin arriving in Morocco and Algeria in preparation for a strike at mainland Europe.

Liberation of Great Britain
February 1944
With his forces stretched thin following defeat at Kursk, Hitler withdraws from mainland Britain in a bid to shore up his defences in France. Churchill returns to Whitehall.

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How to make...
ORIGINAL WALDORF SALAD

A BOWL OF AMERICAN HISTORY NEW YORK, USA, 1896-PRESENT

Ingredients

- 2 apples
- 2 sticks celery
- Good quality mayonnaise

Optional:

- Salt and pepper
- Walnuts
- Lettuce
- Grapes
- Lemon juice
- Crème fraiche
- Mustard



Did you know?

The Waldorf restaurants are linked with creating other dishes, such as Thousand Island Dressing, Eggs Benedict and Veal Oscar.

One of the most famous hotels in New York City, the Waldorf Astoria, opened its doors in 1893 to much pomp and circumstance. To celebrate the opening, a high-society charity dinner served (among many other culinary delights) the first Waldorf salad – a dish that has become famous the world over.

It wasn't a chef that developed the original recipe, but the maître d'hôtel, Oscar Tschirky, who became a celebrity in his own right for his culinary ingenuity (he published his own cookbook in 1896), as well as his penchant for planning and executing lavish private parties.

Still one of the most ordered dishes on the hotel's menus right up until the Waldorf Astoria closed its doors for renovation earlier this year, the recipe has been in constant flux with every chef adding their own twist. For example, walnuts in the salad appear in cookbooks around 1928, but are now regarded as an essential ingredient!

METHOD

01 For the original salad, straight from Oscar Tschirky's 1896 cookbook, begin by peeling and coring two apples. The recipe doesn't specify what kind of apples, but the Waldorf Astoria's updated recipe uses the Granny Smith and Fuji varieties.

02 Chop the apples and celery into small pieces and mix together. Add some mayonnaise and stir through the apples and celery. The amount of mayonnaise isn't specified in Oscar's recipe, so use your own judgement!

03 The original recipe for Waldorf salad is that simple! However, there are plenty of tasty adaptations to try if you fancy adding a bit more to your dish – you could start with seasoning with salt and pepper.

04 Although not in Oscar's original recipe, a classic Waldorf salad is served on a bed of lettuce. Tear up some leaves and line a small bowl to serve.

05 For more depth of flavour, try squeezing lemon juice over the apples before adding the mayonnaise. You can also add grapes for a sweet tang, and lift the mayo with Dijon mustard. If you're not a fan of mayo, try using crème fraiche as a substitute.

06 Of course, no post-1920s Waldorf salad is complete without the addition of walnuts. Chop them up and add to the salad. The Waldorf Astoria's modern chefs have taken to adding candied walnuts for a sweet-and-savoury hit.

© Alamy

REVIEWS

All About History on the books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world

ARTHUR AND THE KINGS OF BRITAIN:

THE HISTORICAL TRUTH BEHIND THE MYTHS

Teasing out British history from the early medieval confabulations of Nennius and Geoffrey of Monmouth

Author Miles Russell **Publisher** Amberley **Price** £20 **Released** Out now

'Fake news' did not, of course, begin at the kingly court of Donald Trump. Early medieval historians, for all their protestations to the contrary, were little more than fabulists extrapolating tales from an indivisible mush of real and imagined events – or were they? Russell chooses to take two of their accounts seriously: Nennius' 9th-century *Historia Brittonum* ('History of the British') and Geoffrey of Monmouth's 12th-century *Historia Regum Britanniae* ('History of the Kings of Britain').

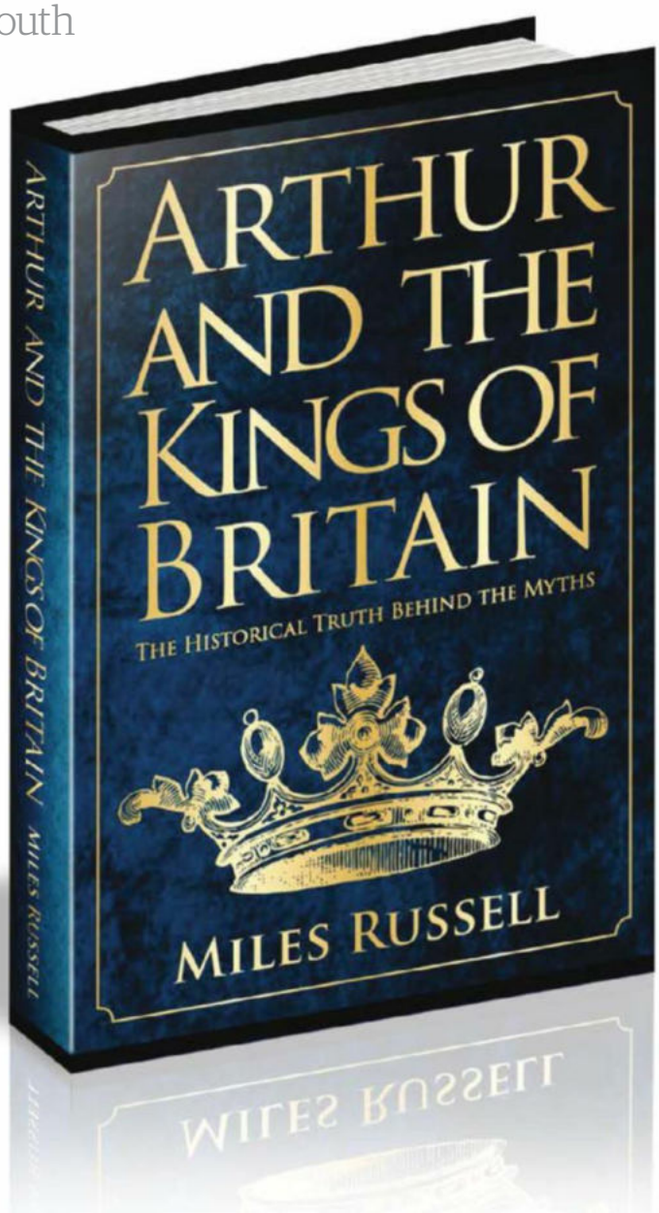
He teases out consistencies from among duplications and exaggerations, cleverly arguing that simple etymological errors led his authors to wildly inaccurate geography that can nonetheless be corrected. Nennius and Geoffrey have in fact blended the oral traditions of the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes, rival Iron Age tribes, with the hereditary lists of kings to create something that can, with care (Russell's catchphrase in this book is "garbled"), be treated as a kind of history of prehistory.

Unlike academics, armchair historians thrive on narrative. Fortunately, deep in his forest of careful comparisons and qualifications, Russell does take the time to recount many diverting episodes – the death of Bladud, father of King Lear, who took to the skies on handmade wings and, like Icarus, fell to his doom; Corineus (and later Arthur) wrestling giants to death; and prophetic dragons under castle foundations.

But come to this book with your eyes on the main title and you may be disappointed: Arthur gets but 30 of the 300 pages; the rest is a painstaking textual study and analysis of those myriad other 'Kings of Britain'. Instead, it is the subtitle that is the key to an admirable but sometimes stodgy read.

However, when we get to it, the conclusion is – in Russell's word – "explosive". From all his close reading, Russell confidently states that "King Arthur cannot have existed, at least in the form in which he is presented", instead he is "the ultimate composite character... there being nothing in his story that is truly original". Fans of chivalric heroes look away now.

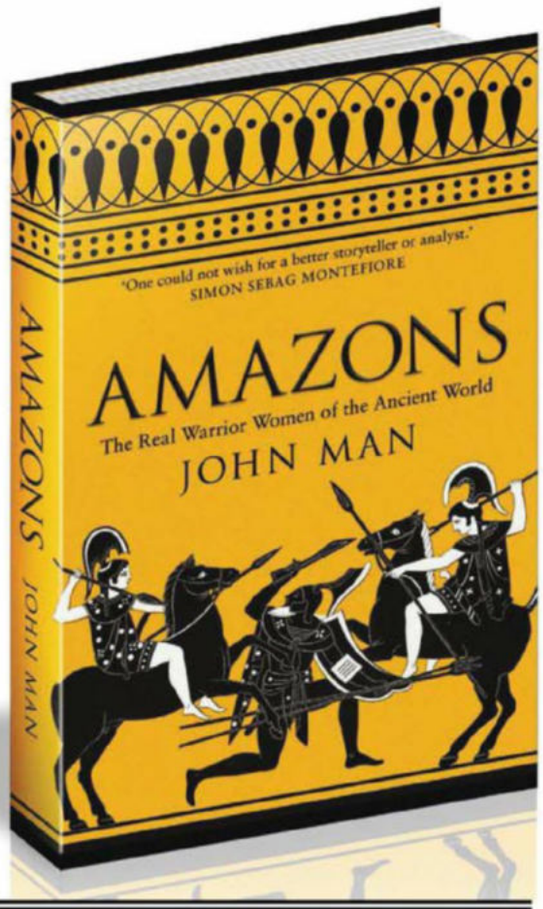
"Early medieval historians, for all their protestations to the contrary, were little more than fabulists"



AMAZONS

The Real Warrior Women of the Ancient World

Author John Man **Publisher** Bantam Press
Price £20 **Released** Out now



For centuries, explorers, writers (and latterly comic book fans) have been held in thrall by the Amazons, a mythic tribe of warrior women who fought on horseback, cut off their right breasts to better shoot arrows and killed male children to purify their ranks. These tales have been rich ammunition for the imaginations of many, despite the fact that no evidence has come to light. Or so we think. Although the nation of Amazons spoken of by the Ancient Greeks never materialised, real warrior women have walked the paths of history, and that is the subject of John Man's new book, which coincides with the latest screen incarnation of Wonder Woman.

Man's eminently readable and well-researched text begins with the myths, charting portrayals of the Greeks' valiance in victory against these seasoned combatants – but the truth is even more tantalising.

From horsewomen hailing from 'Scythian' nomadic groups on the Eurasian Steppe, to formidable females who served the kings of Dahomey (in modern Benin) for 150 years, incredible stories leap from the pages, with Man sweeping from era to era, place to place, but always giving time for the tales to flourish.

Descriptions of burial mounds discovered in Russia, Siberia, Kazakhstan and Mongolia – with many of the archaeological breakthroughs in the 20th century – are exciting, the reader swept along by details of royal burials, young women with clear battle wounds and the famous Ice Maiden, or Ukok Princess.

Man's narrative talents are evident throughout, manifesting in his ability to convincingly weave in all manner of figures and events. We hear of explorers, artists and playwrights, tribes past and present, Russia's World War II 'Night Witches', modern-day mounted archers, and of course that Amazonian icon Wonder Woman.

This results in a delight of a book, illuminating and entertaining in equal measure.





CHURCHILL

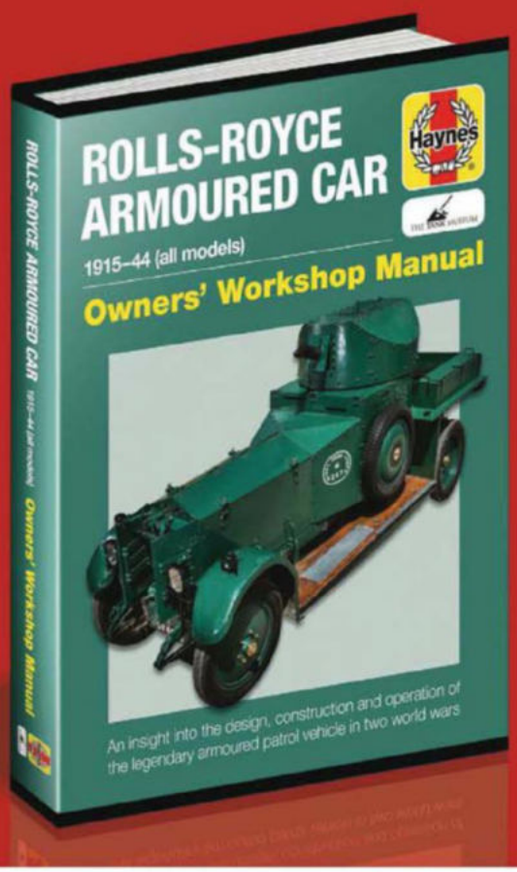
A portrait of old Winnie like you've never seen

Certificate PG **Director** Jonathan Teplitzky **Cast** Brian Cox, Miranda Richardson, John Slattery **Released** Out now

In Jonathan Teplitzky's *Churchill*, the legendary prime minister's experiences in the Great War loom over events transpiring in Britain in 1944. Voted the Greatest Briton of all time in a 2002 BBC poll, Winston Churchill's days as First Lord of the Admiralty ended in disgrace and left him with a consuming shame and guilt. While the public persona – the hat, the Havana cigar and victory sign – is as iconic as it gets, behind the scenes Winston was riddled with depression, self-doubt and totally convinced Operation Overlord would be another Gallipoli.

Alex von Tunzelmann's smart screenplay is essentially a character study, set over three days in the run up to the D-Day landings. It's an inspired approach for a biopic. Rather than opting for the traditional cradle-to-grave narrative, much thriller-like tension is derived from the short timescale and frequent, sometimes bad-tempered, tête-à-têtes with Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander.

The casting of Brian Cox is audacious and problematic. Physically, he looks nothing like Churchill and his unmistakable Scottish burr is a stumbling block. Yet as one of the greatest living actors, Cox brings nuance and warmth to a man who could easily be dismissed as an arrogant and petulant toff. Churchill may well have been "the man who'll see us through" – to quote a working-class secretary who idolises her PM – but Eisenhower's view of the leader is a bit more on the ball: while a public relations asset, behind closed doors, Winnie was on the verge of becoming a liability.



ROLLS-ROYCE ARMOURED CAR

Owners' Workshop Manual

Author David Fletcher **Publisher** Haynes Publishing
Price £22.99 **Released** Out now

The Haynes Manual's foray into military vehicles continues with the Rolls-Royce Armoured Car. David Fletcher (MBE) will be familiar to many as former historian at the Tank Museum, which should give an indication of the quality and detail of the text. The book has been produced in partnership with the museum; unsurprising considering that it is custodian of one of the only two remaining examples of the vehicle.

Approximately half of the book is dedicated to the history of the car, examining its genesis, deployment to the various theatres of WWI, its post-war service and service with the 11th Hussars in North Africa during WWII.

The section on the anatomy of the vehicle is largely based on the Army's 1933 Instruction Book for the Rolls-Royce, but access to the Tank Museum's vehicle means that there are high-quality and detailed images. An extensive collection of images is included, comprising a large number of contemporary pictures of the car on active service as well as some taken during the restoration of the other surviving example, 'Sliabh na mBan', which was part of Michael Collins' convoy when he was ambushed and killed in August 1922.

The combination of the vehicle's history, detailed technical specification, and high-quality images mean that there is enough detail in this book to satisfy petrol-head, historian and scale modeller alike. Here's hoping that the Tank Museum and Haynes collaborate on future projects.

HISTORY of WAR RECOMMENDS...

Praetorian: The Rise and Fall of Rome's Imperial Bodyguard

Author: Guy de la Bédoyère **Price:** £25
Publisher: Yale University Press



De la Bédoyère's book on the Praetorians will likely become the definitive account of the rise and fall of the emperor's bodyguards, but whether it is the best book on the subject depends on what the reader is looking for. If you are looking for a sober and scholarly history of the Praetorians, then you will be in heaven. However, if you would prefer a gossipy trip through the underbelly of Roman imperial politics and the temptations attendant upon being the bodyguard to the most powerful man in the world, then *Praetorian* might disappoint

ROYAL AIRCRAFT FACTORY S.E.5

Owners' Workshop Manual

Author Nick Garton **Publisher** Haynes Publishing **Price** £25 **Released** Out now

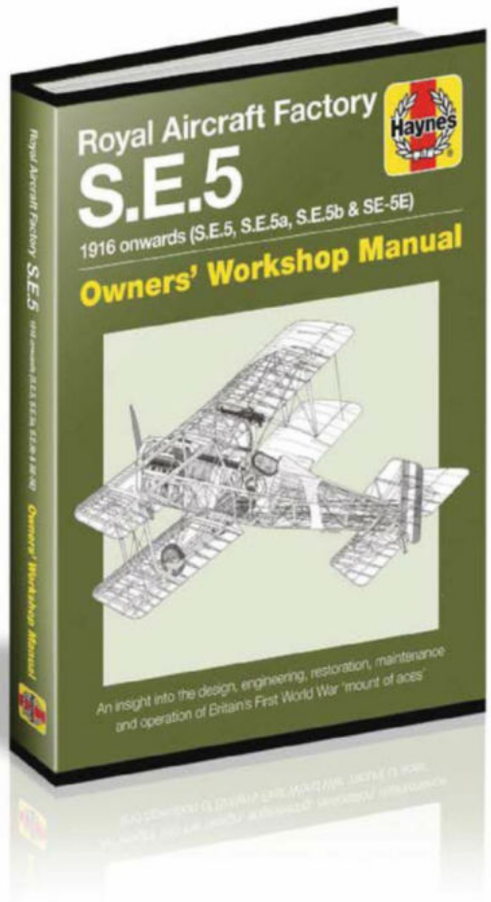
The reinvention of the classic Haynes Manual has seen it diversify from car owners' manuals to cover everything from the Flying Scotsman to the Imperial Death Star. The burgeoning list of military aviation titles now includes this offering on the S.E.5, one of the iconic aeroplanes of WWI flown by the likes of Albert Ball, James McCudden and Mick Mannock.

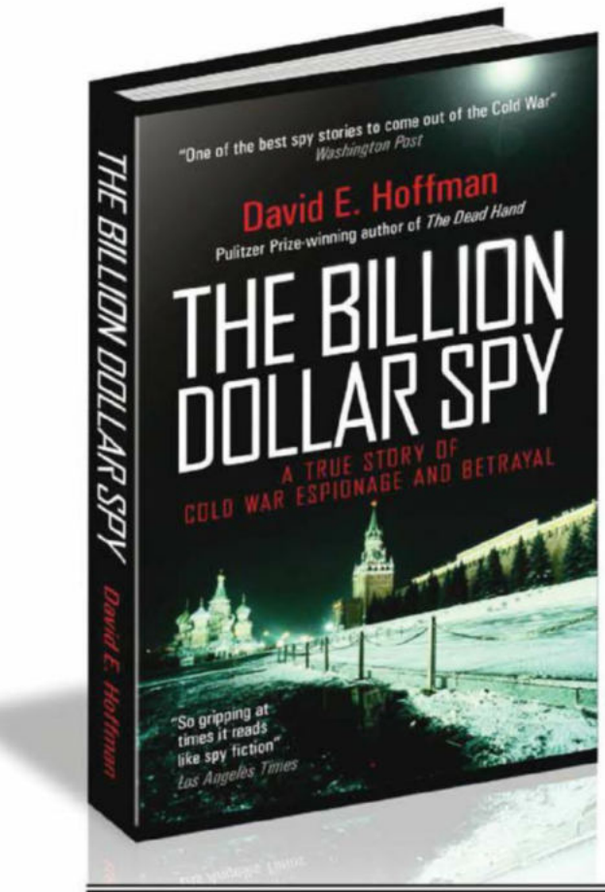
Alongside a detailed history of its development, the book focuses on the only original S.E.5a to return to flight, F-904 of the Shuttleworth Collection, as well as other replicas in existence. It also covers the aeroplane's construction and maintenance, the S.E.5a in action and its post-war career.

As you would expect, images are plentiful, from contemporary pictures to detailed close-ups of the Shuttleworth Collection's example, and the classic Haynes cutaway diagram is a delight.

The level of detail extends to appendices covering the S.E.5's appearances in books and on screen, a list of all known scale model kits and the squadrons that were equipped with the aeroplane in WWI.

Overall this is an excellent, in-depth look at the S.E.5 that packs a huge amount of detail into its 164 pages.





THE BILLION DOLLAR SPY

A gripping tale of courage, defiance and revenge

Author David E. Hoffman **Publisher** Icon Books **Price** £12.99 **Released** Out now

With dead drops, disguises and even fake birthday cakes, this tightly-written history of Cold War espionage reads something like a thriller. Blunt-edged sentences hammer home a sense of danger and urgency. However, a thriller would allow for convenient plot twists and timely escape routes. In *The Billion Dollar Spy*, Pulitzer Prize-winning author David E. Hoffman vividly captures the perilous reality of the Cold War spy game. But it was not a game to those individuals involved.

Those people are central to Hoffman's narrative. This may be a story of spies, but the people he writes about are not anonymous – they have names and faces, families and pasts. Adolf Tolkachev, the spy who gives the book its title, initially lingers on the sidelines of the story. Yet as he emerges, he brings with him his grim determination to inflict as much damage on the Soviet Union as possible. Hoffman's consideration of people, and particularly of Tolkachev, makes for compelling reading.

Although the events of the book are situated against the wider context of the era, they take a step back from the world stage. The focus of the book often falls on what might be called hidden history. Bringing together interviews and previously classified CIA documents, the novel explores the internal workings of the organisation and its espionage techniques. It details technology and methods used for intelligence gathering, secret meetings between case workers and agents, as well as other operations carried out by the CIA.

In short, this book would appeal to anyone with an interest in the history of espionage or the Cold War. However, it could also prove a good read for anyone who simply likes their history 'hot'.

ALONE IN BERLIN

Inspired by a true story of wartime defiance

Certificate 15 **Director** Vincent Perez **Cast** Brendan Gleeson, Emma Thompson, Daniel Brühl **Released** 30 June

Vincent Perez's *Alone in Berlin* (2016) is like all movies that are fit less for the big screen and more for a Sunday afternoon in front of the telly: well-mounted, visually tasteful, impeccably acted, boasts an important theme and message, and comes off as middle-of-the-road fare.

The film is based on the 1947 novel of the same name by Hans Fallada, in turn inspired by the true-life tale of a grieving husband and wife who mounted an anti-Nazi campaign during WWII. After their only boy died in combat on the eastern front, Otto and Anna Quangel distributed literature in the form of pamphlets denouncing Hitler. Needless to say, the SS weren't too happy and ordered one of their best goons to stop the middle-aged couple from wrecking national morale.

Hiring top-tier actors Brendon Gleeson and Emma Thompson means that *Alone in Berlin* is always watchable. The film's problems chiefly arise because, despite having a cracking story to tell (Germans saying 'nein' to Hitler and his racist ideology), the pacing and mood is inert, the dialogue explaining emotion, rather than letting the audience feel it through action and cinematic craft.

The cat-and-mouse plot should have at least injected a bit of excitement. What could have been Hitchcockian and full of heightened tension is fumbled by Perez. A plot hinging on the fatalistic inevitability of capture and the Quangels' brave defiance could have wowed, but holds zero dramatic weight. It's a missed opportunity – watch the similarly themed 2005 film, *Sophie Scholl*, instead.





HISTORY ANSWERS

Send your questions to **questions@historyanswers.co.uk**



Detail from a 14th century tapestry by Flemish artist Jean Bondol, showing the fall of the Babylonian empire

What caused the Late Bronze Age collapse?

Joe Denker

In the Eastern Mediterranean region, the Bronze Age ran from around 4000-1200 BCE. Then, over the next 100 years, the five major civilisations of the Hittite, Mycenaean, Egyptian, Assyrian and Babylonian kingdoms all collapsed. In the past, this has been blamed on mysterious sea-faring marauders known only as the 'Sea Peoples', but more recent evidence seems to point to a perfect storm of calamities that arrived together. Natural climate fluctuations led to prolonged drought that disrupted harvests; several large earthquakes destroyed cities; and then invasions and internal rebellions overturned the existing hierarchies.

These disasters also occurred at a time when population levels were rising and bronze was becoming much more widely available. It was harder for kings to control access to bronze weapons and easier for peasants to rise up. Previously, kingdoms had mostly been toppled or absorbed by other kingdoms. What made the Late Bronze Age collapse so unusual was that these empires simply imploded and weren't replaced for several centuries. People still lived in the region, but in smaller communities with many local leaders. This makes the collapse seem more catastrophic than it actually was because the archaeological cues of ancient texts and great building works largely disappear.

Was Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* first performed at Midsummer?

Nadia Gold

Almost certainly not. The first performance we definitely know of was on 1 January 1605 at the court of Queen Elizabeth I, but the quarto edition of the play printed in 1600, states that it had already been publicly performed several times before then. One possibility is that the play was written for the wedding of Elizabeth Carey, a Tudor noblewoman and goddaughter of Queen Elizabeth. The play has several wedding motifs and contains an allusion to Edmund Spenser's wedding poem, *Epithalamion*. Most experts believe that *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was written in 1595 or early 1596, and Elizabeth Carey was married on 19 February 1596. The play was probably transferred to the stage several months later and there are small differences in later versions that hint at an adaptation from the more intimate audience of a wedding party to a public theatre, such as an extra epilogue by the character of Puck.

ELIZABETH CAREY

Nationality: English
Born-died: 24 May 1576 – 23 April 1635

Brief Bio

Elizabeth married Sir Thomas Berkeley at the age of 19 and became Lady Berkeley. She was a patron of the arts, and Thomas Nashe's pamphlet, *The Terrors of the Night*, is dedicated to her. Her first husband died at the age of 37 and she remarried – to another Sir Thomas!



A Midsummer Night's Dream was probably originally written for a wedding celebration

This day in history 22 June

217 BCE — Battle of Raphia
Pharaoh Ptolemy IV of Egypt defeats Antiochus III of the Seleucid Empire in one of the largest battles of the ancient world and the only one where both African and Indian elephants are used.

1633 — Galileo declared heretic
The Inquisition finds the astronomer Galileo Galilei "vehemently suspected of heresy" for arguing that the Earth travels around the Sun, rather than the other way around. He is sentenced to house arrest for life.



1783 — Volcanic smog
A cloud of sulphur dioxide from the Laki volcano in Iceland reaches the French port of Le Havre. The smog is so thick that boats cannot leave port and the sun is "blood coloured".

1893 — Victoria rammed
The battleship HMS Victoria is accidentally rammed by HMS Camperdown. It occurred as a result of dangerous close-formation manoeuvres during a naval exercise, 358 sailors are drowned, including Vice-Admiral Sir George Tryon.



Who said, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes?"

Jon Peasepottage

This quote is normally attributed to Colonel William Prescott, commanding the rebel forces in 1775 at the Battle of Bunker Hill during the American Revolutionary War. But eyewitness accounts offer conflicting reports of which officer actually gave the order and it may have been Major General Israel Putnam or Brigadier General John Stark. In any case, the phrase was either already in common use by then or it was independently invented several times. Frederick the Great at the Battle of Prague in 1757, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Andrew Agnew at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743, are both said to have issued very similar orders.



Rebel forces at the Battle of Bunker Hill had to conserve ammunition, so they were ordered to only fire at very close range



John F Kennedy was the first US president to have a jet built specifically for his use

Who was the first US president to fly in Air Force One?

Chloe Vilaine

Air Force One is a call sign, rather than a specific plane and is used for whatever plane the US President is currently aboard. It was first used in 1953 for Dwight D Eisenhower to avoid confusion with commercial flights. But Franklin D Roosevelt was the first President to have a dedicated aeroplane for official use, and he was also the first sitting President to fly when he travelled to a conference in Morocco in 1943.



Discover eight wild and wonderful facts about Beethoven, from **historyanswers.co.uk**

1907

Northern Line opened

The Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railway opens in London, with two tunnels running from Charing Cross to Archway and Golders Green. This was later extended to become today's Northern tube line.

1911

George V crowned

George V and Queen Mary are crowned at Westminster Abbey. Queen Mary had previously been Princess Victoria Mary, but both she and her husband agreed that she should not be known as Queen Victoria.



1969

River catches fire

The Cuyahoga River in Ohio catches fire for the 13th time. *Time* magazine covers the event and describes it as a river that "oozes rather than flows". The Clean Water Act is later introduced.



1986

The Hand of God

Six minutes into the second half of the World Cup quarter finals between England and Argentina, Diego Maradona scores a goal with his left hand, later declaring that the "hand of God" had intervened.

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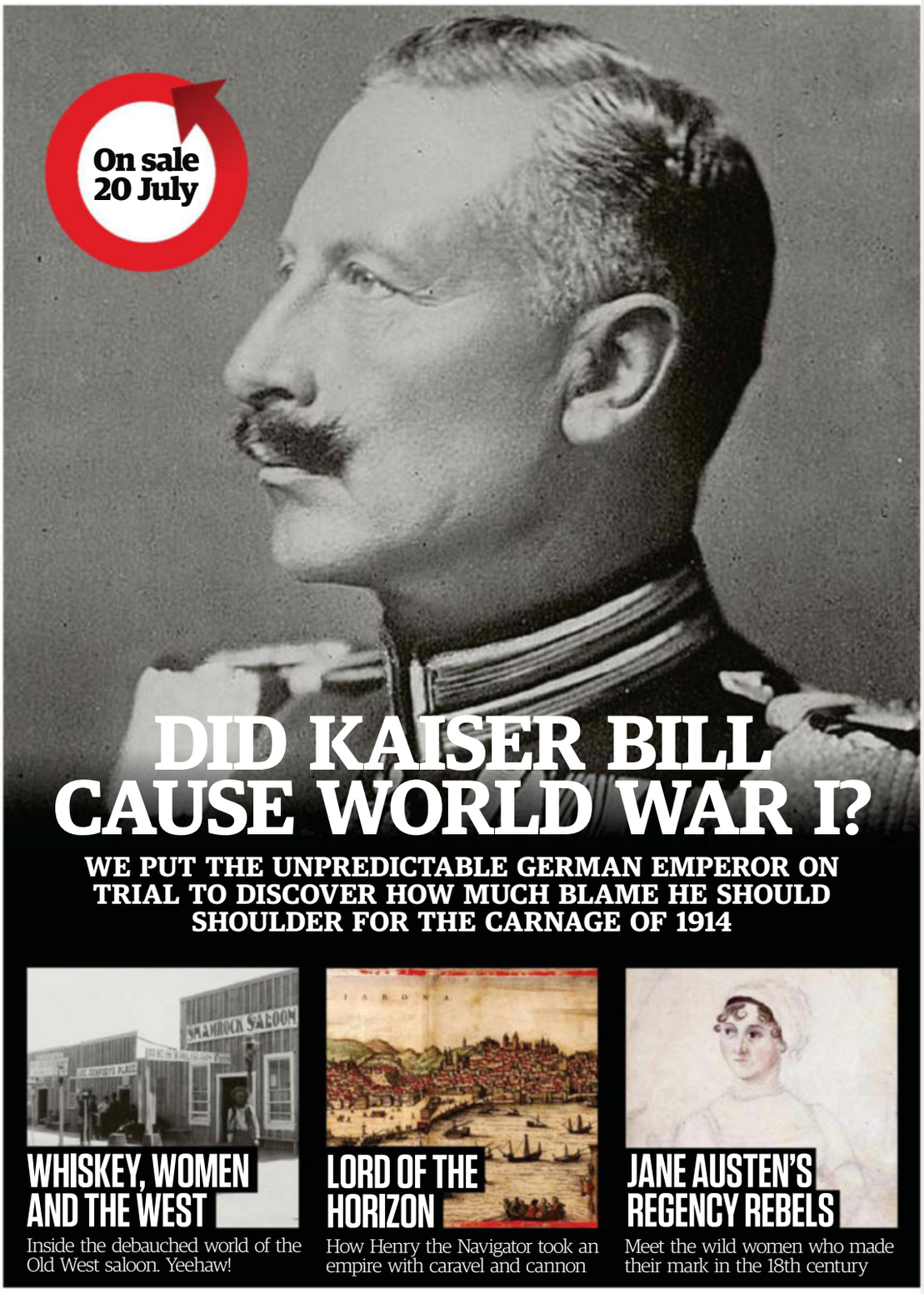
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WE PUT THE UNPREDICTABLE GERMAN EMPEROR ON TRIAL TO DISCOVER HOW MUCH BLAME HE SHOULD SHOULDER FOR THE CARNAGE OF 1914

WHISKEY, WOMEN AND THE WEST

Inside the debauched world of the Old West saloon. Yeehaw!

LORD OF THE HORIZON

How Henry the Navigator took an empire with caravel and cannon

JANE AUSTEN'S REGENCY REBELS

Meet the wild women who made their mark in the 18th century

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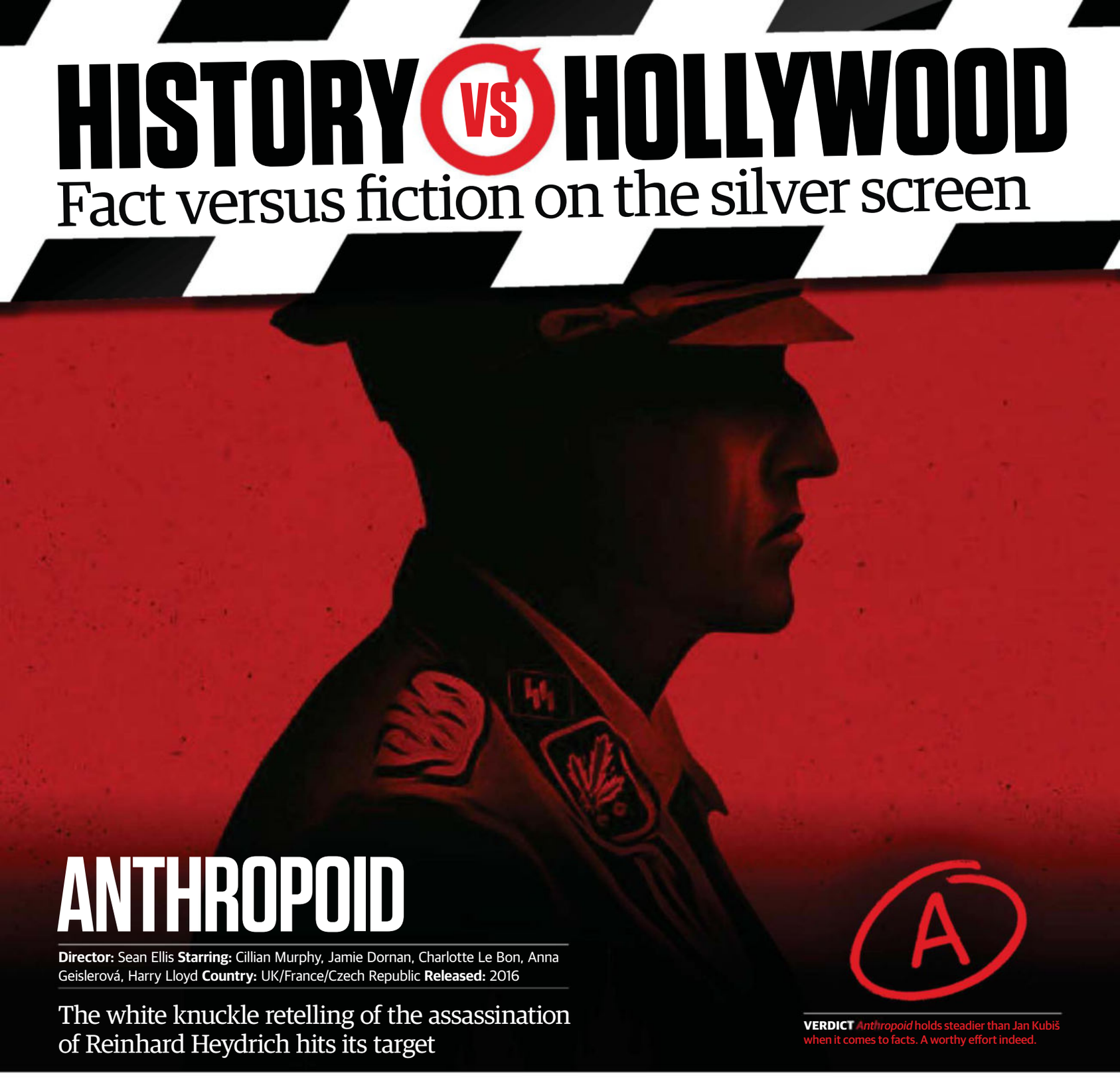
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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen



ANTHROPOID

Director: Sean Ellis **Starring:** Cillian Murphy, Jamie Dornan, Charlotte Le Bon, Anna Geislerová, Harry Lloyd **Country:** UK/France/Czech Republic **Released:** 2016

The white knuckle retelling of the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich hits its target

VERDICT *Anthropoid* holds steadier than Jan Kubiš when it comes to facts. A worthy effort indeed.

01 For the sake of drama and a heroic character arc, Jamie Dornan's Jan Kubiš is shown as visibly fearful, his hands shaking whenever he holds a pistol. In fact, Kubiš was battle hardened, having served with the French Foreign Legion in the 1940 Battle of France.



02 If the romantic subplot seems a little trite, that's because it is. While Kubiš and Charlotte Le Bon's Marie Kovárníková coupled up, there's no evidence that Cillian Murphy's Jozef Gabčík and Anna Geislerová's Lenka Fafková followed suit.



03 Alright, this is super pedantic – consider that testament to *Anthropoid*'s A for accuracy – but the radio used by Gabčík would have taken about a minute or so to warm up, not instantly blare into life with news reports of the attack on Heydrich.



04 While the opening prologue oversimplifies the Munich Crisis, it's the description of Czechoslovakia as 'occupied' that sticks in the craw. In actuality the Czech portion was, but Slovakia became an independent puppet regime under local fascist Jozef Tiso.

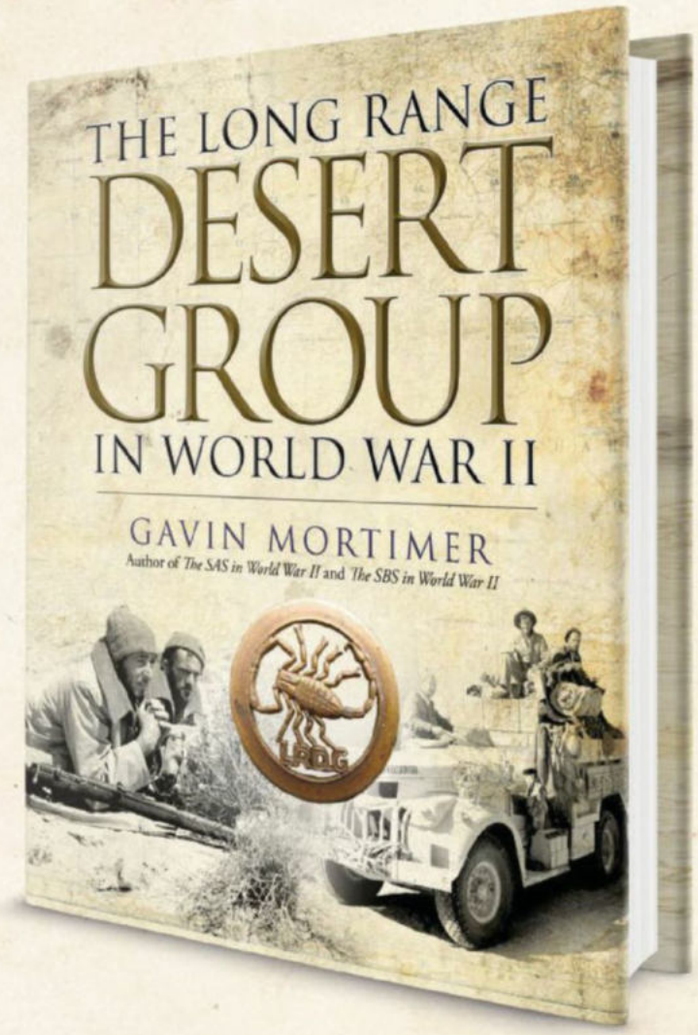


05 It's not like us to focus on what isn't shown when we can nitpick over what is, but perhaps *Anthropoid*'s only real crime against history is its lack of context. The film gives us little idea of Reinhard Heydrich's misdeeds, let alone his leading role in the Holocaust.



The Destination for Military History

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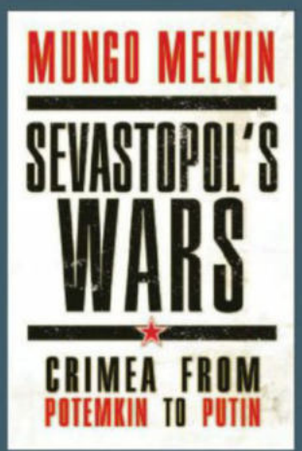


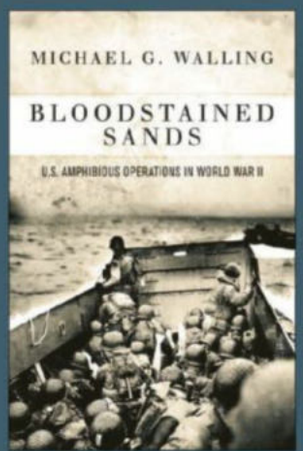
THE LONG RANGE DESERT GROUP IN WORLD WAR II

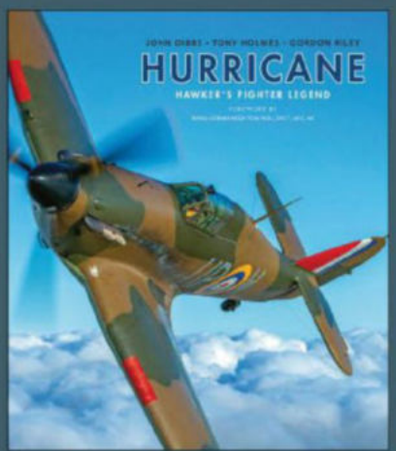
The Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) gained the British Army a crucial advantage in the North African Front of World War II, launching hit-and-run raids against remote enemy targets, often in tandem with the SAS.

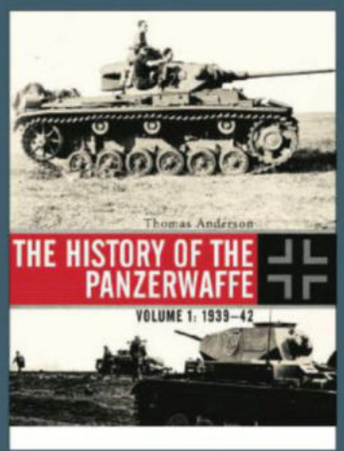
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Just 15 minutes after the start of convergence—at 05:52—Hood unleashed a salvo from around 13 miles (24km) away. But in doing so, Hood could not escape covering fire from Bismarck. At 06:00, an explosion engulfed the artillery cellars in Hood's hold. All the while, Prince of Wales fired blindly—her management positions divided—and scored a hit. A great wound tore Bismarck open; British ships hounded her oil trail, following her as she attempted to escape her fate.

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